

Public Libraries

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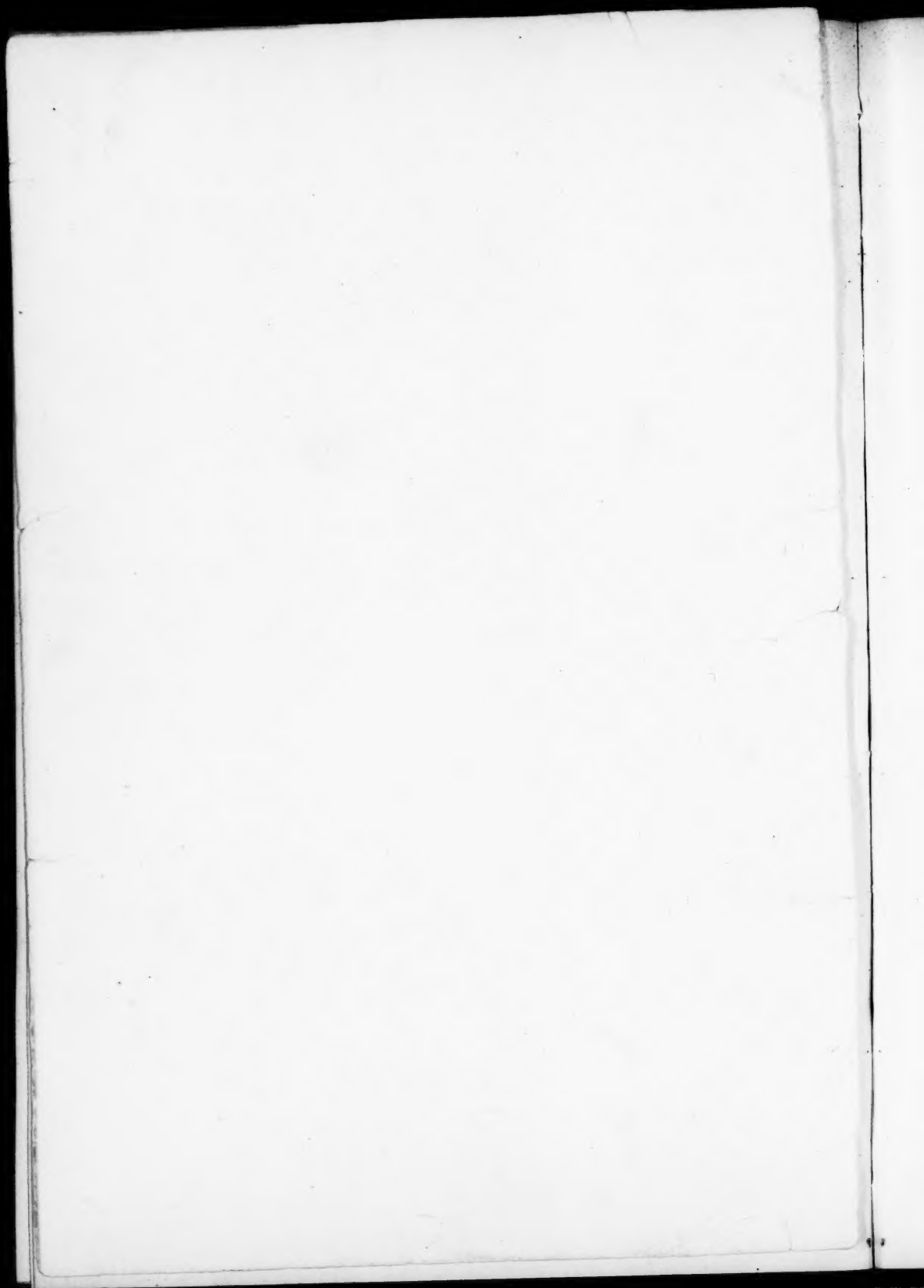
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Binder of Public Library Books



Public Libraries

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Why Does the School Need the Library?*

John F. Riggs, state superintendent of public instruction of Iowa, Des Moines

The subject naturally presents itself under two phases: 1) why the school needs a library of its own, and 2) why it needs the public library, and how the public library has served the public school.

It is this second phase of the subject to which I shall address my remarks; and, I may add, it is a phase of the subject on which I can not hope to instruct the librarians present, for any one of them is better able than I to discuss it. It may be claimed that the school with a well-selected library of its own has no need of the public library. True, it has less need of it than one without a library; yet the school library under the most favorable circumstances does not, neither can it hope to, approach the public library in scope and completeness. At best it is limited to comparatively few volumes aside from the standard works of reference, and is in charge of a teacher, who is seldom a trained librarian.

In almost 100 towns and cities of Iowa public libraries are already established or are soon to be established. The schools in such towns and in the vicinity of such towns may receive an inestimable benefit from their presence, but to do so the library and the school must be correlated in a rational way.

*Read before Iowa library association, Ft Dodge, Oct. 28, 1905.

It is not enough to have the library in the community with the doors open to the children. It is not enough to tell the children of the many books available for entertainment and instruction. They must have the clearest possible direction in the matter of selecting books, or chapters or pages that will supplement the work of the schoolroom. This is done in Cleveland and Buffalo and in a few other cities. The plan followed, as many of you know, is to have a subject index placed in the hands of the teachers. This is prepared with great care and at great labor. A large number of volumes may be placed under tribute to supplement a single text in the child's hands. The teacher is enabled to direct the children to certain books, and to particular pages of such books where additional information upon the subject under consideration may be secured; or, if there are many references to a single subject, different children may be directed to different books, and the information gained in addition to that of the text be later reported to the class.

Two or three illustrations drawn from the subject index used in the city of Buffalo will show the possibilities of the system. We will assume that the children have become interested in the story of Benjamin Franklin as recorded in the text on history which they may be studying. At this opportune moment the teacher is enabled, by turning to the subject index, to mention 16 books with the page or pages of each where

something is said about this great American philosopher and statesman. In the case of Lincoln 24 books are laid under tribute, and with Washington 32. All the greater characters in our American history can by this means be studied with any degree of fullness desired. The same is true with geography, with nature study, with natural science, and with other departments of school work. It is obvious that children will gain some acquaintance with the books consulted and will often become sufficiently interested to read them from beginning to end.

Pres. Butler of Columbia is reported to have said recently that the first duty of the student is to learn to think as other people have thought as expressed in literature. Then, after they have learned to accept the reasoning of others, it is their duty to think for themselves or to become independent thinkers. Whether Pres. Butler is right in this view may be seriously questioned. But we know the tendency with students is to accept the statements of the text as infallible; and what is more, of containing all that is necessary to know about the subject under study. If the student is to think as other people have thought, it is important that the thoughts of many on the same subject be considered.

One of the difficulties in our schools has always been the slavish adherence to the particular text that may be in the pupil's hands. The teacher, as well as the pupil, has seldom had the broad view that comes from consulting many authors and seeing the view point of each. It is worth while to compare opinions, to marshal authorities, and to do some hard reasoning and thinking, and this is precisely what will result from the generous use of the library in the way suggested. Not only will the child's knowledge of the text under study be more thorough; he will come to love the books from which he has drawn treasures of knowledge. He will furthermore acquire the habit of turning to the library for instruction. He will become acquainted with the libra-

rian and she in turn will be given the opportunity to drop a word of counsel now and then concerning the right books to read and what to look for in such books.

There is, I think, the greatest need for intelligent direction of the reading of children and young people. In the multiplicity of books and the ease with which they may be secured, particularly the less desirable ones, there is an ever-present peril. I believe the reading of the young people should be extensive as well as intensive. The child should read many books for pleasure, for instruction, for correct language, for enlarged vocabulary; but he should read the best books only, and that he may do so the worthless should be kept from his reach, and careful direction be given in the choice of the true and inspiring.

But it is not enough to tell the child to read this or that book, however excellent it may be. Mention should be made to him of the beautiful and inspiring things he will find in the book, and something about the personality of the author should be given, so his interest will be aroused.

The correlation of the public school and the public library will bring the children to the library and give them, as already stated, the library habit, and with wise direction it will tend to educate right literary tastes.

Frank O. Carpenter of the English high school of Boston argues in an October magazine article for the closer union of the library and the school. His position is that both institutions are supported by a public tax and that the duplication of libraries is wasteful and needless. He would have the library board purchase and distribute all supplementary reading books and other books designed for general use in the schools. He would have the library board a committee of the school board, charged with this specific duty. Under such an arrangement there would no longer be need of a school library other than the works of reference; instead the children would come to regard the public library as their library.

By making the library the center of the schools and recognized as an organic part of the school system, children would be drawn to the library more and more, and its value to them greatly increased.

The story is always interesting to children, but there is danger that in their eagerness to know how it will come out they may fail to apprehend the literary beauties, the moral lessons or the inspiring thoughts. There are school girls, it is said, who devour two or more novels a week in addition to carrying their studies. Where reading runs riot in this fashion there can be little, if any, intensive study. The omnivorous reader is apt to be the shallow reader, and may possess the most meager knowledge of the books read. He may know the titles and the outlines of the stories read, but so far as anything really valuable his reading may be barren.

The other day a young man of culture found himself for an hour in the company of a charming young lady who essayed to be a reader of many books. The conversation soon found a literary channel, when the young man chanced to mention Scott's *Lady of the lake*. Oh! I have read it a dozen times I suppose, was the young lady's exclamation.

And, continued the young man, are not his powers of description marvelous? One can almost see the actors and the magnificent mountain scenery portrayed. Oh! it is most charming, replied the lady.

And Scott's *Marmion*, I suppose you have read that?

Oh, yes! it is simply grand, isn't it? And, proceeded the young man, Scott's *Emulsion*?

Yes, indeed, the young lady exclaimed, I believe it is the best thing he ever wrote.

The library will be of little value if it can not serve a more thoughtful class of readers than that represented by the young lady to whom I have just referred. The librarian and teacher should unite in the effort to lead children to comprehend what they read, and to take delight in inspiring and ennobling lit-

erature. The child should know that some books are not to be read hastily, then thrown aside never to be opened again. There are books—and they are the best ones, the most inspiring—that we may read and read, and read again and still find something new, something to please and something to instruct. It is such books the child should be taught to love, and by the correlation of the library and the school under wise direction, as indicated, he may be led into the appreciation and endowment of the best in our literature.

The First Library in Indiana*

Horace Ellis, president Vincennes university

Men are fond of relating how that Harvard university had her modest beginning when John Harvard, standing in the midst of a circle of friends, placed a few choice volumes upon a table, saying as he did so, I give these books for the establishing of a university.

In these active twentieth century days such a simple service could not be regarded as seriously significant. But cheap books and good books found place in one home only, in Harvard's day, where now a thousand are graciously blest. It really meant much of sacrifice to Harvard to render the service he gave.

In historic old Vincennes, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, a notable assemblage of men gathered with purpose scarcely less exalted than that which animated the founders of the great university aforementioned. Little stretch of the fancy is needed to picture that body of public-spirited pioneers in the pioneer town of the Wabash country. The central figure of the group was a warrior, skin bronzed from exposure in Indiana campaigns, heart attuned to strains as lofty and as holy as commonly move the souls of true men—Gen. William Henry Harrison, whose military achievements are read and known of all Indiana school children today. Other characters, notable for

*Prepared for and read before the Indiana state library association annual session at Muncie, Ind., Oct. 20, 1905.

their intimate connection with the early history of the Indiana country, sat in this meeting—Gen. W. Johnson, John Rice Jones, John Badolett and Noah Purcell, whose sturdy posterity has achieved so mightily for our glorious commonwealth. Francis Vigo, Henry Vanderburg and Daniel Sullivan, each potent in the upbuilding of the territory, and honored by having a county of the new state bear his name, contributed to the success of the meeting, at least by the weight of his presence. These were the palmy days of old Fort Knox. One can imagine the thrill of pleasure that must have stirred the souls of these pioneer veterans as the reflection came to them, full of hope, that the war days of the young republic had passed for a time at least; that peace with her completed victories, her larger conquests, and her more permanent achievements, smiled upon the fair west land, to abide in the Wabash country for centuries yet unborn. Citizen meetings of former days discussed war preparations, reserve enrollments, Indian defenses. The present more agreeable duty impelled these citizen-soldiers, or soldier-citizens, to a new phase of patriotic labor. They had met to establish a public circulating library, the first to be established in the limits of the present great Hoosier state.

Here is a copy of the original entry of the minutes of the meeting as recorded by the secretary:

At a meeting of a number of the citizens of Vincennes and its vicinity at William Hay's home on July 20, 1806, who were desirous to promote the formation of a circulating library, Gov. Harrison was called to the chair and Benjamin Parke appointed secretary.

David W. McKee offered to the consideration of the meeting the form of a constitution for a library company, which being read, upon a motion made and seconded, it was

Resolved, that an agreement should be entered into by such as would subscribe thereto, to engage each to the other to comply with such rules and regulations as a majority of the paid subscribers should finally adopt for the government of the company.

On a motion made and seconded it was ordered that John Badolett, John Johnson, David McKee, and John R. Jones be a committee to prepare the form of a constitution for the said company. Ordered:

That the said committee do make report at

the next meeting of the said citizens; and then the meeting adjourned to August 2, next, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

Gov. Harrison presided at the August 2 meeting likewise, with B. Parke as secretary. W. J. Badolett, chairman of the committee appointed at the July meeting for the purpose, offered a draft of a constitution for the library company, which was read and immediately taken into consideration, and being variously amended, was finally adopted.

The business judgment displayed by these backwoodsmen on the present occasion must appeal with irresistible force to the sane man of today who may have opportunity to study the records they made of their proceedings. Not a thing carelessly done, nor lightly attempted; every act weighed, viewed from all sides, winnowed and sifted until all the chaff disappeared. One can not but feel that any large danger for miscarriage of plans was eliminated by these strong men at the outset of the enterprise. And so was it. They builded well—better than the structure created by their public spirit has been kept in repair.

The constitution of the library company, among many other matters of lesser consequence, provided that there should be offered for sale 100 shares of stock at \$5 a share, payable in specie or in such books as the president and directors of the library company should judge proper for admission, and at such value as the president and directors should fix. And here it is interesting to note that these pioneer library founders took care that only suitable books should be accessible to the readers. Their judgment may have been somewhat biased, but they scrutinized every volume, one may conclude from the accepted list of volumes, with puritanic severity. Treatises of religious themes seem to have appealed strongly to their tastes. Logic and philosophy also fared well at the hands of the company. I find little mention of fiction entries. The lists are replete with old French authors in the original. The selecting committee clearly knew its business.

Four days after the second meeting of the body shares of stock were offered for sale, at which time about 40 of the 100 shares were subscribed, the highest number of shares taken by any one individual being two, whether through modesty or fear for the success of the enterprise I dare not surmise, and the records are silent upon the question. However, within a few months all the shares had been taken.

At the first meeting for the sale of shares of stock in the library company occurred the election of officers for the new company. John Badolett, whose name is famous in the annals of old Vincennes, and whose picture adorns the walls of Vincennes university today, was made first president of the company. The minutes of this meeting fail to show the name of Gen. Harrison among the first officers of the new company. Such could not have been the case except upon the urgent request of Gov. Harrison himself, since the records glow with constant mention of his presence at all meetings, together with his active participation in the business of the sessions.

From that date subscribers and other interested friends deposited and donated books in numbers aggregating several hundred volumes. The lists are interesting, indeed. The wide range amazes one how these sturdy backwooders succeeded in procuring works of such signal worth. If those charged with the preservation of these old books had been animated by as lofty public spirit as the donors seem to have been, still might the old volumes abide with us to plead for the establishment of the poor man's college—the public library. But they are gone, just as many other valuable donations to this first collection of rare valuables are lost. An illustration: The minutes of a meeting held August 30 contains this interesting entry: Col. Vigo presented the library with a singular horn. What has been the fate of that "singular horn"? Not idle curiosity impels us to wish that the horn were preserved. A decent regard for the memory of Col. Vigo and, therefore, for

honor's sake, requires that we mourn the loss of this historic relic. So many of these priceless donations disappeared—like Haggard's *She*, just vanished. Dr Hubbard Smith, in his reliable history of Vincennes, declares that these curios and specimens were taken by the state of Bloomington to the State university. If such is the case, then all of them were doubtless lost in that disastrous fire of 1883, when the museum was totally destroyed. Regrettable as the circumstance appears, it leaves its forceful lesson—that we do care for the residue of a once famous and valuable museum.

I have read somewhere that that old sea rover, Sir John Hawkins, when cruising in African waters in his rude slavers, avowedly and openly for the purpose of stealing human beings, even when the holds of his vessels were filling with hundreds of wretched slaves perishing from want of food and drink, was wont to assemble his men twice daily for religious service, with no prickings of conscience amid all that sorrow. Well, not that the historical reference obtains with any direct relevancy to the matter about to be uttered, I wish to disclose a secret, unearthed from the records: Vincennes library once undertook to support itself by means of a lottery of the first class. Acting under authority of the legislature of the territory of Indiana those sly old directors, with conscience as undisturbed as if rendering the most sacred service to their country, concocted one of the neatest little gambling schemes on record. By means of their combined wit they rendered it possible for the library to come into possession of sufficient available funds to rehabilitate the vacant library shelves as well as to fill others yet unconstructed. The scheme, briefly, was based upon the same method of operation which the more recent Louisiana lottery adopted and employed. About \$300 resulted from this innovation. In reading the proceedings of that interesting little venture one is made unconsciously to think upon certain practices of many church organiza-

tions of this enlightened day. The fathers, however, did not outrage a quickened public conscience by their lottery scheme, which removes all culpability from their acts. They meant no irregularity of ethical practice, and it certainly was sanctioned by the law. When some of us realize the large final return which comes from school libraries, and from free public circulating libraries, and then have to face a statute which places us upon half rations, what wonder if we be sorely tempted to adopt the lottery method of fund-raising.

Removals from the city of Vincennes, together with the pressure of business engagements, occasioned many changes in the management of the company. Less of close surveillances over the books rendered it possible for many volumes to be misplaced and lost. Therefore, on Feb. 19, 1823, a new librarian was elected and an inventory of the stock was taken. This inventory showed the total number of books to be 1080, a loss of 90 to 100v. in the 17 years of the existence of the library. Perhaps one-third of these old books are now in the library of the Vincennes university. Under the present authority they will all be jealously guarded, used only when the emergency require, open always to those whose appreciation of their worth manifests itself. The library company no longer exists, as such, the last record of an official meeting bearing date of Feb. 5, 1883.

One by one the shares of stock were forfeited or transferred to persons whose interest flagged in the enterprise which had so auspiciously begun its career. At length the company ceased to meet altogether and transferred its interests in all books to the university. Thus one of the most potent agencies for progress in the early existence of the state passed into history, every page of which is illumined by gracious deeds of sacrifice for conscience's sake.

Out of the shadow of night
The world moves into light—
It is daybreak everywhere.

—Longfellow.

University Extension and Public Libraries*

Stella V. Seybold, librarian Davenport (Iowa)
public library

To many the idea conveyed by the words "university extension" is that of a course of lectures designed largely for entertainment and conducted usually under the auspices of the University of Chicago. Its purpose, if any, is vague. Its relation to modern life is not evident. To the average mind it has the aspect of a luxury rather than of a vital need in the community.

In reality university extension is one of the most significant of modern movements. The germ in its development is to be found far back in the first inspiration which came to man to give of his knowledge to others. The late Herbert B. Adams traced the first impulse toward the movement to the Mechanics' institutes in England organized to promote the cause of higher education especially among workingmen. According to Mr Adams the "first practical attempt to extend the power of the university and bring within reach of busy adults the benefit of their influence" was the Workingmen's college founded in 1854 in London. To Prof. James Stuart of Cambridge university, however, is due the honor of having introduced university extension in England. Before it was recognized as a legitimate part of the system of education, he delivered courses of lectures, first to women teachers, then to laborers, using methods very similar to those of the extension lecturer of the present day. His system was recognized and university extension was introduced by Cambridge university in 1873, and five years later by Oxford, where in 1885 it was in a flourishing condition.

From this fragmentary history it will be seen that university extension is not peculiar to the United States. Though systematic lecturing had been undertaken in this country in the early part of the nineteenth century, the establish-

*Read before Iowa library association at Fort Dodge, Oct. 27, 1905.

ment of the movement here is due largely to the keen foresight and executive ability of Dr William Pepper, at that time provost of the University of Pennsylvania, through whose efforts the Philadelphia society for the extension of university teaching was formed in 1890. A suburb of Philadelphia, Roxborough, was selected as the first local center with a course on chemistry. During that first season of extension, 23 centers were established and lectures delivered to nearly 60,000 people. A noteworthy fact is that in one center, a course in advanced mathematics was given to a group of workingmen. The enthusiasm and eagerness with which the people took hold of extension work in Philadelphia led to inquiries from all over the country, and to meet the need of a national organization, the American society for extension of university teaching was established. From its inception 15 years ago to the present time, university extension has grown and broadened constantly. At the present time, aside from the three original centers—Albany, Philadelphia and Chicago—where the most active and influential work has been maintained, university extension is successfully carried on by a large number of the leading universities.

The motif of the university extension movement is the education of the masses. Perhaps the clearest definition has been given by Prof. Richard Grant Moulton in the words: University extension is university education for the whole nation organized on itinerant lines. Its modus operandi is quite simple. A course of from six to twelve or more lectures on correlated topics is given to a group of people forming a local center.

The cost of syllabi, advertising, printing, hall rent and traveling expenses and fee of the lecturer are assumed by the center. At the close of the lecture, those of the class so desiring remain for question and discussion, and at the end of each course a written examination is given by the lecturer to those who are qualified and desire it. In some universities a certificate obtained in this way counts toward a degree.

The University of Chicago has four different methods of operation through its extension division: 1) lecture study courses; 2) correspondence courses; 3) study clubs, and 4) evening and Saturday classes for Chicago and vicinity.

From the first the public library has taken an active interest in the movement and in many places has developed a splendid coöperative system.

The subject of university extension was presented for the first time to the American library association in 1887 and the idea was promptly taken up by librarians notably in Buffalo, New York, Chicago and St Louis. One of the first to act upon the ideas presented to the association was the Buffalo library. The services of a competent lecturer were secured and a public course of 12 lectures on economic questions was given. A few hours daily were spent at the library by the lecturer in consultation with those attending the lectures on books and reading bearing upon the subject. Thus a demand for the best books on economics was created. Through the zeal of Dr Melvil Dewey, university extension was undertaken by the state of New York. Home education and study clubs with the combined aid of traveling pictures, traveling libraries, extension lectures and state examiners—all work harmoniously and efficiently together under one central guidance at Albany.

The value of university extension in one city is clearly shown by the following statement from the History of a typical center by Rev. Arthur M. Judy of Davenport, who has been very closely connected with the movement since the beginning: This surely can be reported of Davenport, that four or five hundred of us have now become accustomed to a style and substance of lecture that would make it almost impossible for us to listen patiently to the popular sensational lecture. We have learned to like a better subject, a quieter treatment, a more balanced, critical, tolerant, informed presentation. We have learned to care more for instruction, less for sensation; to feel not less, but more wisely. And we have been set to read

meatier books. I am not able to give the exact number of books issued from the traveling libraries, but, as a rule, all the books they contained were given out to eager takers. Moreover, our public library has shown a marked increase in the number of solid books issued—an increase clearly traceable to the influence of the lectures. And still further, not a few of the best books have been bought, owing to the same influence. Nor should it be thought that this improvement in the quality of reading has stopped with the attendance upon the lectures; their family and friends have caught the enthusiasm and set upon the same pursuit.

A letter received from Walter A. Payne, secretary of the Extension division of the University of Chicago, gives the following statement in regard to the encouragement of the movement by public libraries:

The most conspicuous illustration of such encouragement is to be found in Philadelphia. The Public library board of that city conducts in the library halls a number of courses of lectures each season. The Cleveland library board is endeavoring to do something of the kind, but because of lack of funds has yet accomplished very little. In many other cities in which the library building has an auditorium or assembly hall this is furnished to the university extension committees free of charge, while the librarians, in practically all centers, place in a special alcove the books bearing upon the subjects being treated in the university extension courses, and frequently a bulletin cataloging these.

The effect of university extension on the community is to promote the cause of the library both directly and indirectly. The growth of the library depends on its human environment. Any influence which elevates the moral and intellectual tone of the community serves the library. University extension deepens the culture, broadens the vision and awakens new purposes in its members. It directs energies into definite, worthy channels. It accom-

plishes its highest function in the moulding of public thought. If the culture of the community is deepened, if the moral tone is quickened, the reaction is to the benefit of the library. The average person turns to fiction to the exclusion of other classes for the most part because he does not know the riches elsewhere. One of the greatest aids to the library in increasing the circulation of classed books is the university extension. It creates a demand for the best class of reading. A lecture on Emerson awakens a desire to read his works and his life; a course on modern social questions creates an interest in vital problems of the day and stimulates the reading in this direction.

It can easily be seen how close is the connection between the university extension and the public library. The two can not be separated. Neither can one do its best work without the other. The library can coöperate in a number of ways. If there is no university extension, the library should arouse the sentiment which would lead to the formation of a local center. It need not bear the expenses but simply take the initiatory step in arousing the desire for extension. If there is an auditorium of sufficient size, the library could further coöperate by holding all lectures in its hall. The librarian could be the local secretary and could have charge of the housing and circulation of the traveling library in connection with the lectures. The public library could purchase, duplicate and place in the special alcove or section of the library all books recommended on the lecture syllabus. By printing lists in daily papers of the books recommended on each lecture, by making them available in every way possible, the library would become not only useful to the work of extension but could make popular some of its best material. The result of coöperation with university extension is to elevate permanently the standard of reading in the community, to awaken higher ideas and to make the library a most efficient agent for promoting the cause of education.

Book Selection from the Branch Librarian's Standpoint*

Sara Jacobsen, librarian of the City Park branch of the Brooklyn public library

The question of actual book buying does not confront the branch librarian in the system with which I am most familiar, but it is in her province to notify the superintendent of the book-order department of the wishes and needs of that sufficiently heterogeneous body known as the reading public. To be on the alert for this she resorts to various devices, the most helpful of which is the interchange work, or borrowing a book from another branch in case the volume asked for is not in the present branch.

A large placard is posted near the charging desk stating that The Brooklyn public library owns 200,000 books. These are placed in the various branch libraries. If the book you want is not in this branch, ask one of the librarians to send for it. There is no charge. You will be notified when it reaches here. Reference and juvenile books will not be sent for. In this way, many people that were too timid to ask for books not within sight, or not in the branch, now feel it a member's privilege, which they use freely. The cards on which these requests are written are kept after the book has been returned to the branch, and serve as a guide in ascertaining which books might wisely be placed on the shelves. These books, recommended in this way, have proved most useful and popular. It was through this channel that we found out our great need for books on gardening, a subject alien to the atmosphere of the present branch, which is located in a slum district, and of the branches farthest away from the suburbs of the city where such subjects might be considered suitable. Of course, not all books which are asked for through the interchange department can be bought for the branch, but simply those which are asked for so often that we need them constantly at hand.

In case the borrower himself thinks a certain volume ought to be placed in

the branch he is using, he is asked to give the proper information about it on the book-order slip which is forwarded to the "superintendent" with or without the branch librarian's signature, as she agrees or disagrees with the borrower.

A close watch is also kept of cases where there were not a sufficient number of books on a subject to meet demands; but a subject for which there is only a temporary need, as some of our clubs or institutions present, are referred to the traveling library department. Being a part of a large system of branches has its great advantage in this way compared with the small town library, that so often has had to place a dozen histories on the shelves which a year later had no interest whatever for the community.

The number of volumes which may be recommended by each branch librarian varies according to the size of the present collection and statistics of circulation. During 1904, this branch sent in 75 book-order slips per month, although this did not mean that we only received this number, a great many of those received as extra being second-hand books. In this way we have received many books on the Civil war, United States history, etc., which is our most popular class in non-fiction, the superintendent having asked to be notified in the beginning of the year of those classes in which the collection needed to be strengthened and this being one of them.

Being near the navy yard, the branch receives a large constituency of its engineers, draughtsmen, machinists, etc., for whom we have had to get books on naval art and sciences, naval history and biography, as well as a good working collection (which, by the way, never seems complete enough for good work) on engineering, electricity and machinery.

As a small branch has not sufficient use for an expensive art book, or rare book, we depend on one of the larger branches taking care of these, and consequently direct the borrower to the use of it at the branch in which it has been placed.

*Paper read at a meeting of the L. I. L. C., May 18, 1905.

In watching reviews for current publications one is never satisfied, so that even if the branch librarian has nothing to do with the book buying, off hours can be delightfully spent looking over books in book shops and publishing houses. As a personal aside, I might add that this has serious drawbacks on one's purse, however firmly one starts out with the will not to be tempted, and one finds that even a librarian's catholic taste is made gullible by the snares of evil modern publisher's advertisements. However, together with these trips, which always give one a chance to superficially look over a few of the current books, and the help of such reviews as the *Vial*, *Nation*, *Athenæum*, one can get a halfway fair idea of what one may expect.

The head of this department determines what new fiction is sent to each branch; but in case a novel seems side-tracked and is often called for, the branch librarian sends word to that effect. But any standard fiction which needs recommendation to be placed in the branch, either for replacement or duplication, are received at the book-order department.

But in selecting titles for recommendation, whether guided by reviews or personal inspection, it is well to keep in mind, before recommending an English edition, to compare its price with the one on the American market, and vice versa; in case an American net publication, you may be able to find listed an English edition not net, and taking into consideration the duty free importation of library books, the discount may therefore be so much more than in the case of a net book, as to make it cheaper.

When one knows the make-up of an edition, one naturally chooses the simple, unpretentious, substantial one that can better stand the wear and tear of public library use than the light-colored, fancy edition; and in large works of history or science, a volume with a good index is of triple value, compared to one without it.

Report of O. L. A. Special Committee on Cataloging*

The recommendations for securing better catalog facilities for small libraries through the agency of printed cards having been passed unanimously by the O. L. A. in May, 1904, were published in the *Library Journal* and PUBLIC LIBRARIES; copies were forwarded to each of the library commissions, state library associations, and to Dr Herbert Putnam, librarian of Congress. To Dr Putnam also, at his request, were sent all the committee's correspondence with libraries and commissions, and the tabulation of the same.

Dr Putnam replied as follows:

Every recommendation of the Ohio library association will, of course, receive considerate attention from us. Of this you may be sure. How far we shall find it possible to adopt them is, however, another question. The distribution of our cards to other libraries at the price at which they are distributed is made possible by the fact that they are simply multiple copies of precisely the same entries as we print for ourselves. Even as it is, the distribution is at some loss to the library. To reset and to print a substantially different card, as will be required by the recommendations, would involve a distinct undertaking on a substantially distinct basis. For a single group of titles such as those representing the 800. v. in the A. L. A. catalog, this might not be impossible; but no such group absolutely distinct exists or will exist, for no single library will limit itself absolutely to those 800 v., and it would be unfortunate to have the cards for these vary from the cards representing other volumes in its collection as cataloged by the Library of Congress. . . .

Whatever our limitations, we shall desire that there shall be no question of our appreciation of the efforts of the Ohio committee (which had been at work on this problem), and of the value of the suggestions and evidence which they have submitted.

The committee at once expressed itself to Dr Putnam that cards as recommended would mix readily with other Library of Congress cards, and that all tentative subscriptions received were made with the full understanding of the increased cost. We asked then for an estimate from the Library of Congress as to the probable cost of the set of cards for the A. L. A. catalog, upon which we might ourselves receive sub-

*Given at Bass Lake, Ohio, Oct. 12, 1905.

scriptions enough to finance the undertaking. By this time Dr Putnam, as we had expected, had to reply that the cards for the A. L. A. catalog were being issued, and it was too late for change in them, and that in the press of work at the Library of congress, estimates for a new work in the interest of particular libraries could not be given attention at the time. Our reply was as follows:

Your letter of June 20 made me fearful that I had seemed to unduly press an extra burden upon you. But I do feel that I can not let the matter drop at this point without laying before you our whole plan and defending its wisdom, which you say is not clear to you.

I enclose our plan for the carrying out of the recommendations sent you, which will show that our idea is not to ask a charity of the Library of congress. Nor does it arise from discontent with the help so generously being given in allowing the use of your cards.

We have necessarily, in our study of the problem, expanded our original idea, and now know that a special undertaking is necessary and practicable. More coöperative cataloging help is needed, desired, and undoubtedly will come in the near future. The movement, when it comes, should emanate from the only natural, fully equipped center, the Library of congress.

I should be doubly sorry to see it undertaken by any other institution. The successful distribution of the L. C. cards for the past three years has given us an insight into 1) the economy of a larger library making its cataloging available to others, 2) the great value and success of the Library of congress as a printing and distributing agency for catalog cards. But, as shown in our recent correspondence from libraries representative of the average, typical American town library, the kind of cataloging being done at the great national library does not answer the purpose for most of these other libraries; and the rapid and widespread circulation of its cards is even, I believe, a menace to the adoption of adequate, simple cataloging by such libraries. Cards issued by the Library of congress are naturally looked upon as models; and, I repeat, for the average, typical town library they are not models, nor ever can be, being made for a unique type of library different from any other in the country both in size and use. We feel confident that the time has arrived for a further step in general coöperation whereby libraries doing special work in annotation and index cataloging for public library needs can contribute their cataloging to other libraries having the same needs. There is every indication, from interest expressed and promises received of coöperation on annotations and cataloging, that the plan can be successfully carried out, providing there is a printing and distributing center. There is no place like the Library

of congress for this central bureau for which you have set the ideal.

If you can not at this time make estimates of cost, we can get them from another source. It will suffice, for the present, if you will merely say whether you think the Library of congress can consider becoming this central bureau if the work is made fully to pay its own expenses.

After this the discussion was dropped with the Library of congress until the commissions should unite on a new coöperative booklist and financial aid should be procured for backing the enterprise.

August 12, 1904, the committee received an invitation to attend a meeting in Chicago of representatives of some of the library commissions who were having a preliminary conference relative to organizing a national Library commission league. The chairman being in Colorado at the time, the committee was represented by Esther Crawford, who went to Chicago and presented again the aims of the committee.

The result of this meeting was the organization at St Louis of the League of library commissions. The committee was on hand by invitation to present the matter of union buying lists and printed cards for the league; but the details incident to organization occupied so much time that the matter had to be carried over.

During the A. L. A. conference, however, the committee was not idle. The chairman had the pleasure of meeting Dr Putnam, who expressed his interest and wished us to understand that his failure to meet our proposition was due to the big undertakings on hand for the Library of congress. He wanted us, however, to visit Washington and not to back down from the position we had taken. Mr Hastings, in charge of the distribution of cards at the Library of congress, was also met, and after a full conference with two of the committee, who tried to clear away some natural misapprehensions which arise through correspondence without personal acquaintance, he declared that he would recommend the matter to Dr Putnam and gave his personal estimate that the A. L. A. set could be printed at the

regular price for L. C. cards, providing 50 subscriptions were secured for the full sets. Mr Hastings was present at the commission meeting, but was given no opportunity to speak for lack of time.

At St Louis also Mr Fletcher of the A. L. A. publishing board expressed himself as having followed with interest the work of the O. L. A., and feeling that the proposition was such a good one that it ought to have the coöperation of the Publishing board. Consequently the committee made a brief report of its plans to the meeting of the Publishing board at St Louis. Later the chairman was invited to a conference with Mr Lane and Miss Brown, who expressed themselves as willing to help in some way not editing.

As soon as possible after the A. L. A. the executive committee of the Library commission league met in Chicago under the chairmanship of Henry E. Legler, to consider coöperative booklists and coöperation with the Publishing board. By invitation the chairman of your committee was present at this meeting to present O. L. A. plans. While we had hoped that cards might be procured for the A. L. A. catalog as a whole, we were willing to compromise on whatever buying lists the Commission league decided to recommend and issue. After report and discussion the executive committee of the Commission league passed the following resolutions:

1 Resolved that the executive committee of the Library commission league approve the printed catalog cards recommended by the O. L. A. committee and favor their adoption for the Suggestive list and Buying list.

2 Whereas the Library commission league and the individual commissions in it represented are unable for legal and other reasons to provide funds for the editorial work on printed catalog cards for the Suggestive list in conformity with the recommendations of the O. L. A. committee, therefore the league asks the A. L. A. publishing board to appropriate funds necessary for this work.

3 Resolved that the commissions in the league recommend the adoption of the O. L. A. cards in their states and advise that the cost per card shall not exceed the cost of the present Library of congress cards.

Thus it is seen that the whole matter

of cards has been carried over to wait upon adjustment between the new organization of commissions and the Publishing board. Negotiations between these bodies have been dragging on since last November. So far the only result pertinent to our question which has been made public is that the commissions have dropped the plan of being allowed to issue their own buying lists for small libraries, and have accepted on trial the A. L. A. book lists issued from the office of the Publishing board in Boston.

Of course before we can again approach the Library of congress upon the subject of printing special cards for books in small libraries, there must be a generally accepted buying list for small libraries; and, again, some financial backing (to furnish editorial work until the cards are issued and payments come in) is assured from the Publishing board, the O. L. A. committee can do no more. The ways and means rests now with the Commission league, the Publishing board and the Library of congress.

Since the recommendations of the O. L. A. were issued, two state associations have passed resolutions of appreciation and endorsement—Iowa and Illinois.

Since coming to the O. L. A. meeting this October, 1905, the committee has had a conference with H. E. Legler, president of the Library commission league and also with Miss Doren and Mr Legler, as representative of the A. L. A. publishing board. The Publishing board has just had a meeting in Boston, at which was discussed the advisability of taking over the printing of cards as per O. L. A.

It is learned that the *A. L. A. booklist* is accepted by the Commission league as the official book buying list to be sent to their smaller libraries. This list, it is understood, will be in the hands of the Commission league to improve and adapt for their purpose. Thus this list will become the generally accepted booklist for which the cards will be wanted.

It is suggested and planned that a trial be made of using present Library of con-

gress cards for these books, but adding helps to the extent of subject headings, analyticals and annotations. The Commission league will do the printing in of this material, if the O. L. A. will furnish material. In this case cards would be procured through the Commission league headquarters and for the present the extra catalog help and printing will be done gratuitously by the O. L. A. and the Commission league.

It is fully expected that this trial of the adapted cards will be able to so prove itself, that the Library of congress or the Publishing board will eventually take over the work of printing and distribution

It is confidently expected that Ohio libraries will try the venture and that it will be a success to the extent of proving its right to support as a separate undertaking.

Respectfully submitted,
LINDA M. CLATWORTHY.
LAURA SMITH.
EMMA GRAHAM.
W. H. BRETT.
M. E. AHERN.

Bass Lake, Ohio, Oct. 14, 1905.

A few sets of the publications of the Bibliographical society of Chicago, which terminated its existence upon the organization of a national society in 1904, may now be ordered from the secretary of the Chicago chapter, B. S. A., Mabel McIlvaine. These publications, valuable in themselves, are indispensable to a complete history of the Bibliographical society of America, since the former Chicago society was the direct predecessor of the national society.

The library of the Bibliographical society of Chicago having been turned over to the national society, gifts of books, etc., should now be sent to the librarian of the Bibliographical society of America, Wilberforce Eames, Lenox library, New York. Any member of the B. S. A. who was not a member of the former Chicago society is entitled to receive a copy of its Yearbook for 1902-03 by sending 3 cents for postage.

Bulletins to be Included in A. L. A. Booklist

TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

The list of reference lists published in library bulletins, which I have hitherto furnished to the Bulletin of bibliography, is hereafter to form a part of the *A. L. A. booklist*, and it is of great importance that no references should be overlooked. Efforts have been made to secure through exchange all those bulletins which contain lists, but it seems probable that there are omissions. I therefore take this opportunity of asking libraries throughout the country to see to it that their bulletins are included.

MARY G. WILBUR.

Providence (R. I.) public library, Oct. 28, 1905.

The Fraser Institute in Montreal

PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

In the November number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, the news note from Canada stated that the Westmount library is the only free public library in the Province of Quebec. I take the liberty to say that there is in Montreal another free public library which contains over 45,000v. (many being of great value), and which will soon publish its twenty-seventh annual report. This library is absolutely free and the circulation is about 100,000v. every year in Montreal and the surroundings. The Fraser institute was founded in 1879 and opened to the public in 1885. It possesses a number of valuable Canadian and one of the best collections of books of reference in Canada. In addition to these, the beautiful rare engravings and books given by the Prince Jerome Napoleon to the Institut Canadien belong now to the Fraser institute.

The librarian is P. de B. Crèvecoeur, Officier d'Académie, Miss McDougall, first assistant, and assistants Miss McDougall and Miss Belanger.

Very truly yours,

P. B. DE CRÈVECOEUR.

Montreal, P. Q., Nov. 10, 1905.

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$1 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$4 a year
Single number	- - - - -	20 cents

PUBLIC LIBRARIES does not appear in August or September, and 10 numbers constitute a volume

Ten years of work—This number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES closes the tenth volume in the series. In looking over the material produced in that time, much room for satisfaction is afforded by the collection of the best that has been said and done in library work, in these pages. There has been no holding back in supporting whatever has been for the good of libraries and the upbuilding of a professional standard. That there have been mistakes is but natural in a work having so many sides, but it can be said without contradiction that nothing of injustice or of bitterness has appeared in these pages.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES was started by the Library Bureau of Chicago solely in answer to an earnest appeal of many libraries for a library periodical that answered their requirements. It has steadily kept those needs in view, has endeavored to meet them in a fair way free from bias of any kind, and has met with the kindest reception.

The year 1906 promises to be a momentous one in library matters in general and to PUBLIC LIBRARIES in particular. We shall continue our endeavor to the fullest extent to be of service to the libraries both large and small, and trust we shall continue to receive the same measure of appreciation that has been extended in the past.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES now goes into every state and territory in the United States, to our islands in the sea, to South America, Canada and Mexico, to every country in Europe that maintains libraries of any kind, to Asia, Africa and Australia. We hope in the coming year to multiply the number of our readers in all these places.

A course in professional reading—It is proposed to present in PUBLIC LIBRARIES during 1906, a course in professional reading for those librarians who wish to take up such a line of work. The course will cover in a simple way historical, theoretical and suggestive material which may lead to larger results if followed with that idea in mind. It will be primarily intended for librarians who from whatever cause are not in touch with library discussions, to bring to their notice the things that will lead to a wider view of their work and make them feel more keenly their part in the library movement of today.

The plan has received the approval of a number of librarians who are in a position to help and whose assistance may be relied upon to be of value. Mr Dewey, Mr Dana, Mr Henry, Miss Marvin, Miss Warren, Miss Winsor, Miss Eastman and others, it is hoped, will interest themselves in the work.

The plan is to run 10 sections through the year, covering certain lines of reading and to give a test of the work done, at the end of the year publishing the satisfactory results.

The death of Mrs Van Vechten of Cedar Rapids, Iowa—There passed away on the morning of November 12, one of the strong supporters of public library work in Iowa, Mrs C. D. Van Vechten, president of Cedar Rapids library board. It is safe to say that in all that state, noted for advanced library activity, she was without a peer in her work of establishing and maintaining the ideals of public library work. In her own city of Cedar Rapids she has been the embodiment of all that is admirable and progressive in a woman devoted to her home and attached to the best interests, moral, intellectual and spiritual, of the community. She was the guiding force in the public library movement from its inception in her own mind to the day of her death. Quiet, patient, strong, intelligent, she moved steadily forward until she saw her work firmly established in a beautiful building finely equipped and well administered. She gave of her ability to the Trustees section of the

Iowa library association and to state library affairs in general, and her good judgment, clear insight and strong common sense made her an efficient force, earnest but never assertive. She will be sadly missed in her state, in her city and in her home, but particularly in the Cedar Rapids public library.

Library publicity—There is much good work being done in various parts of the country at the present time to give proper publicity to the work of libraries individually and collectively. A recent paper read before the New Jersey library association by J. C. Dana on advertising is worthy of special mention. Of newspaper publicity he says:

Nothing is better for a public institution than publicity. The people who pay for its support are entitled to know—it is a part of their education to know—all its ins and outs, its receipts, its expenditures, its methods, its plans and ambitions. Newspapers are almost invariably willing to insert these brief notes. They feel that about the management of a public library there should not be, toward the public, the slightest intimation of a desire for secrecy. Of course there are matters of petty and personal detail and subjects under consideration to publish which would show poor judgment or poor taste. The newspapers understand this.

Mr Dana's own work in systematically studying the needs of his city, and his successful efforts to make the public library a vital factor in the life of Newark make his ideas on the subject worth consideration. He has very properly been made chairman of the A. L. A. committee on publicity, and it may be expected that a much-needed work heretofore neglected will be well done.

Under civil service rules—The New York civil service commission has issued a card for applicants for five positions to fill the vacancies in the State library as follows: State librarian, state law librarian, reference librarian, director of library school, chief of educational department. Women are not eligible except for director of library school.

Librarians generally will watch the result with interest.

The "plan of competition" as set out contains a world of meaning and is as follows:

Candidates will not be required to appear at any place for examination. They will fill out an application form to show that they are eligible to enter the competition and in addition will submit a complete statement of their record and qualifications, together with any vouchers and recommendations which they may desire to submit. These records, vouchers, and recommendations will be submitted to a committee of librarians of high standing, and upon their rating eligible lists will be made up for each position. The same applicant may be a candidate for more than one of the positions. The committee may make such further inquiry of and concerning candidates as they deem expedient.

The importance of the positions demands qualifications of a high grade. If desired, letters of recommendation may be addressed by the writers directly to the commission. Applications and other papers should be filed as early as possible to facilitate the work of examination.

Where does the competition come in?

Mr Hay's reticence as to his writings—Some recent library lists are making free use of John Hay's name as the author of the Breadwinners. Mr Hay was never known to give his consent to the use of his name as the author of this book. A Washington critic said he wrote the book, newspapers not friendly to Mr Hay first repeated it. Others followed, but in every instance it is a matter of guessing. Because it has been repeated many times, there are those who assume it to be so. The writer for one, in the lack of better evidence, does not believe Mr Hay was the author in question and would suggest that libraries restrain from helping to fasten permanently what may be an error after all.

Library Hints

Special invitations

The following is a sample of a plan tried by Miss Drake, the librarian at Jacksonville, Ill., and which is reported to have had good results:

Mr ———,
City.

DEAR SIR:

As I know you are interested in the Public library, I wonder if you will be willing to read the enclosed invitation to members of your union.

I should be grateful if you felt like emphasizing the value of the library, and if you would at the same time ask some of your members or friends to speak in its favor. Will you mention the library hours, especially evenings and Sunday afternoons.

Any suggestions from you as to ways in which we might make the library more interesting to the people will be appreciated. I would be glad to talk with you personally about this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

LIBRARIAN.

BOILER MAKERS UNION,
Jacksonville, Ill.

GENTLEMEN:

As the time of the year is approaching when we are forced to seek pleasure indoors, I wish to extend to you and to your families a most cordial invitation to make every possible use of your Public library. While the building was a gift from Mr Carnegie, the library is supported by taxation and every citizen of Jacksonville should feel perfectly at home there and secure for himself the utmost pleasure and benefit from its resources.

We have on file in the reading-room, Jacksonville, Springfield, St Louis and Chicago daily papers, and about 80 current magazines.

These are for general use in the room. Books may be borrowed without charge from the library upon application at the loan desk. The loan desk is opposite the main entrance where you will find someone who will be glad

to answer any questions and show you about the library.

The library is open from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. during the week, and the reading-room from 2 to 6 on Sundays.

Very sincerely yours,

LIBRARIAN.

Special occasions

A hint of how the public library of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is furnishing "somewhere to go" and "something to do" to those who are always asking for such things may be found in the following extract from a letter from Miss Wood, the librarian:

On September 21 Mrs E. R. Burkhalter gave a bird talk at the library. The next day a little girl came into the children's room and said to one of the assistants, I heard you were going to have a bird talk at the library.

That was yesterday, replied the assistant.

What kind of a bird was it? asked the child. Was it a parrot?

October 3 Mr J. Cameron, science teacher at the high school, gave a stereopticon lecture on mushrooms that was very interesting. The pictures were taken in the vicinity of Cedar Rapids.

Besides these free lectures two entertainment have been given in the auditorium for the benefit of the book fund. Miss Witwer, Mrs Craig Cook and others voluntarily gave a Shakespearean entertainment, and Miss Katherine Everts read My lady's ring. People were delighted with the entertainments.

From October 31 to November 4 the Art association gave an exhibit of pictures by western artists in our art room.

A new advertisement

The Butte (Mont.) library, recently burned, announced that the damaged books would be given away and a great crowd of newsboys and others who did not frequent the library appeared to receive the books. A hint for library advertising appears in this. While the instinct of getting something for nothing is not of a high degree, at the same time it is necessary sometimes to "first catch your hare."

Interlibrary-loan

The following is a good form to use in making a request for books on the Interlibrary-loan plan:

Application blank for named books

To the librarian of the Free public library,
Newark, N. J.

Please send to this library the books named below, which we promise to return on _____ or sooner if you so require, in good order, paying all charges for transportation, postage, etc.

Librarian of the _____
Library.

Author _____ Title _____

The Juneau library in Alaska

A letter from Mr "Seattle" Smith quotes from a letter of Mayor Malony as follows: The Juneau city council have established the library in the city hall building, and the city clerk acts as librarian. The council show a disposition to carry the matter through, and I hope it will be a success.

Mr Smith says: It seems the Juneau library was started sure enough, and I will try to apply what momentum I can to the movement from time to time. Would it not be well if the numerous fathers and mothers of this waif should remember it, and send in annual contributions if necessary? Perhaps if the library papers would talk it up occasionally quite a stream of books would be contributed.

Is it not possible for the western libraries to donate some of their superfluous copies of books and magazines in order to give this little northwestern library a start?

The delightful letters written by J. C. Dana to the Newark newspapers on the western experiences on the A. L. A. journey to Portland, Alaska and return last summer are worth preserving by library people generally. They contained graphic descriptions of the beautiful scenery, the unique commentaries of the writer on men and measures in the convention and by the way, and wise deductions on library matters in general. Copies of these letters may still be had on application to the Newark public library.

American Library Association

Some of the decisions of the Executive board of general interest to librarians are the following:

It was voted that in the budget as prepared by the finance committee the amount allotted for handbook be increased from \$125 to \$150, the appropriation for committee on book buying be reduced from \$300 to \$200, and that \$75 be added to the sum assigned for sections and incidentals.

Budget for 1905-1906

The following estimate of expenditures for the current year, based on the income of \$2950 and submitted by the finance committee, was approved by the Executive board.

Proceedings.....	\$1300
Stenographer for conference...	150
Handbooks.....	150
Secretary's salary.....	250
Expenses at the conference and of the secretary's office, postage, printing, etc.....	450
Treasurer's office and traveling expenses.....	175
Committee on book buying....	200
Other committees, sections and incidentals.....	275
Total.....	\$2950

It was also voted that the Publishing board and the committee on book buying be requested to arrange to print in connection with the *A. L. A. booklist* such of the material prepared by the committee on book buying as they shall deem advisable.

It was voted that the Board instruct the secretary to forward reports of the proceedings of the Executive board to the *Library Journal* and PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The committee on library training for 1906 was appointed as follows:

Mary W. Plummer, H. E. Legler, Isabel Ely Lord, A. S. Root, Alice M. Chandler, Mary E. Isom, Eleanor Roper, Grace D. Rose. This appointment was made in accordance with the action of Portland meeting of council, raising the number of this committee to eight persons, and with the recommendation of the committee on library at the Niagara conference, as follows: the committee to "be composed of eight persons: one,

a member of a state library commission; one, the librarian of a free circulating library of at least 50,000v.; one, the librarian of a college or reference library; one library trustee interested in questions of training; and four library school graduates engaged in library work in various kinds of libraries and in various capacities, including one from the faculty of a library school. One school graduate and one other member to be retired and replaced at the end of the first two years and each year thereafter."

Copyright conference

A. L. A. representatives attended the Copyright conference in New York city November 1-3. A strong feeling was expressed by the publishers and booksellers that the clause allowing libraries free entry should be abolished as being against the best copyright interests. No vote was taken, but it is almost certain that a bill including that idea will be presented to Congress. Such action would call for strong protest from librarians to their individual congressmen.

Names wanted

Librarians whom this notice reaches are asked to send the names of their library, the names of the trustees and of the staff as early as possible to E. C. Hovey, assistant secretary of the A. L. A., 10½ Beacon st., Boston. Kindly arrange them on P size cards with name of library first so that they may be dropped into place in alphabetic order in the mailing list. It is hoped to obtain a reliable mailing list to be used in sending out material and such a list can only be had by prompt attention to this request on the part of every librarian or reader of PUBLIC LIBRARIES who is in a position to fulfill the request.

The reference librarian does not find it so simple a matter as it once was to find club material, and a good proportion of her best work is done in behalf of club women. Many of the small libraries owe their very existence to the club women, and the large libraries owe much of their growth to them.—*Gratia Countryman.*

A New Classification in Fiction

From the account of the recent meeting of the Long Island library club the following characteristic bit is taken.

In her Notes on recent books, Miss Haines said that there are recognized fashions in fiction just as in everything else, called attention to the fact that the novels of the present day show a wider field of endeavor than at any other time in the past, and volunteered the statement that the present year had produced no novels which might truthfully be said to be in the first rank of literature.

There are two kinds of books, she said, the thriller and the throbber. Then there are the local color novels, under which classification appear the American local tinted books. Reference was also made to the historical novels, and also to what the speaker termed the "fluffy" books. She took occasion to deplore the rapidly growing tendency on the part of readers, both young and old, to become absorbed in detective stories of a certain type which she designated "pernicious," as distinguished from the legitimate "mystery" tales of today.—*Brooklyn Standard.*

Proposed Bibliographical Institute

A pamphlet setting forth a proposition for the establishment of a bibliographical institute has been issued by A. G. S. Josephson of Chicago. In this Mr Josephson has called attention to the lack of anything like an adequate bibliographical equipment anywhere in the United States, and sets forth a plan by which much of the need of students and others engaged in research work might be met by a bibliographical institute which, while it would be American in name and locality, would be international in scope. It would not be the intention to duplicate work already done but to make available from one source what has been or can be done along bibliographical lines. Mr Josephson's plan calls for a \$1,000,000 endowment, and he invites discussion of it by all those interested.

Now the new library buildings are liable to contain club room and audience halls, possibly game rooms and smoking rooms, for the purpose of attracting people through the social instinct, into a cozy, homelike place, where they may have a pleasant introduction to the higher intellectual pleasures as well.

Library Notes

Melvil Dewey, director New York state library school

016.345 Work for associated state libraries—Some prominent American economists are moving for a complete consolidated index to American statutes. As a basis for this they need a complete bibliography of all statutes of all the colonies and states. It would seem singularly fitting that the State library section of the A. L. A. should use its influence to have such a bibliography prepared. New York is doing its part by issuing the handbook of legislation (over 1200 pages) for 1903. We have had many letters from governors of other states, professors in schools of political science and eminent students of comparative legislation, vouching for the great practical usefulness of these publications, which we propose to keep up permanently as our contribution to this immensely practical subject. The need grows stronger constantly for consolidated bibliographies and indexes that shall deal with all the American states in a single work. If no single state feels like undertaking this, we might appeal with confidence to the Carnegie institution, or even better to the national library, the natural publisher of such a work, from which we have been getting in the last few years so many publications of the greatest practical usefulness.

025.2 Accession book for manuscripts—We are constantly adding manuscripts to our great collection. For many of these in time we shall have full printed catalogs. To accession and describe each individual piece would be very costly. To leave them tied up in bundles with no records would invite carelessness and perhaps theft. As a compromise we decided on a record book where we give date, source and cost, if not a gift, in the margin. In the body we give a brief description of the papers using abbreviations freely and the most compact statement which will identify the bundle. We thus have in chronologic order a record of the additions with a sufficient description to detect thefts or misplace-

ments, and yet without the serious cost of the full catalog we may make later.

025.7 Paper or cloth sides—The library tradition is that marbled paper sides are smoother, thus allowing the book to be taken or replaced on the crowded shelf more readily; are cheaper; do not fray or ravel at the edges like cloth, and, therefore, are to be preferred for all ordinary use. It is true, however, that books with paper sides which have much wear lose the polish, and the exposed paper becomes badly soiled from unwashed hands. Some, therefore, prefer on books largely handled by the general public to use a hardsized cloth side, which is more impervious to dirt than the worn paper and which better allows cleaning with a damp sponge.

029.1 Briefer bank records—Most persons use the old-fashioned checkbook with stubs. This involves turning the short awkward page for each item, is very slow of consultation and does not admit of footing columns without transcribing to another sheet. Twenty-five years ago I devised a bank sheet which has been commended by many bankers as the simplest that they had seen, and constant use since confirms the theory that it would save half the labor in keeping records. This is an L sheet, 20x25 cm, ruled with 25 lines and with columns for:

Deposited (2.5 cm)

Balance in bank (3 cm)

Drawn (2.5 cm)

Date (2 cm)

Number (1.5 cm)

"In favor of" and "for" in one 8 cm column.

All deposits appear in the left column, the date going in its proper column and explanation in the wide column at the end. Balance in bank always hangs down one line below all other entries. When a check is drawn it appears on the same line with this balance, with date, number, name of drawee and what it was given for in the last column. This is immediately deducted from the balance which extends down again on the first blank line. Deposits in the same way are entered on the same line with this bal-

ance, added to it and carried down. No figure is thus made off the sheet. Everything is preserved and 25 checks appear on a single page where the eye sweeps down the numbers, dates, names, or amounts and finds what is wanted in one-third the time required for the stub-book. Deposits are in the same way checked up by consulting merely the left column of each page. As not a useless mark is made, it is demonstrable that this is the cheapest, simplest, and best way to keep record of checks, deposits, and bank balances.

655.25 Foolish fads in library printing—A library ought to have its printing creditable: good paper, ink and press work, clear type, leading, spacing, margin and other details that would indicate work done under the supervision of one whose specialty was to know about books and printing. We urge our Library school students to take particular pains to make their printing creditable to their libraries, but I protest in the name of common sense against an educational institution of the dignity of a public library chasing after little whims and fashions like a milliner's apprentice. It is as ridiculous as for a librarian (as happened once to my knowledge) to buy the latest tints and perfumes in fancy stationery to use for his official correspondence. The purpose of library printing should be to convey to the mind of the reader the idea of the writer in the most direct way, and alleged ornaments and decorations which might be fitting in an art school or in the circulars of a bricabrac shop are wholly out of place in official publications of a library. The recent fad of printing a great blotchy paragraph mark at the beginning of sentences, perhaps in another color, is a case in point. To a sensitive eye it is as offensive as a crushed fly on the paper, serving no possible use, as the indentation indicates the paragraph in a better way and known to all the world. Equally senseless is transferring to library printing the objectionable folly of spreading dates over the largest possible space. The contracted loan desk date of 28 D 03 is

sprawled out into "the twenty-eighth day of December, nineteen hundred and three," and in some cases the words "in the year of our Lord" or "anno Domini" are also added. I have no criticism for those who prefer to use the usual form instead of the contracted library date, but when the customary arabic figures are extended into long words, it wastes time of reader as well as of writer and is merely an illustration of conspicuous waste, a thing to which fashion is specially prone.

The Philadelphia free library has begun the publication of a monthly list of the useful documents received in the department of public documents of that library, the first list being issued in October. It includes not only United States government reports but reports from various states on subjects of general interest, with plain references, making them extremely valuable as a check-list for applications for reports. Some idea of their interest may be gained from some of the items included, viz: Soil bacteria; Composition and value of flour produced by the roller process; Laws relating to child labor in foreign countries; American cotton supply and distribution; Regulation and restriction in manufactures; Rearing oysters; Studies of museums; Retail prices of foods; Poisonous weeds, etc. The plan is a good one and will be valuable in its results.

The only man who never made a mistake is the one who never made a success. The horse in a treadmill is never in a smashup, but neither does he get anywhere. Every path to preëminence is blazed with errors as the wagon road across the plains is lined with skeletons of those who failed by the way, and our road is clearer for the passage of the pioneers who learned the best path through experience on the worst ones. A stupid error, a careless error, or a repeated error should receive no end of self-condemnation and a hearty amen to the assaults of others. Negative measures never accomplish anything in the wars of progress.

Library Schools

Carnegie library of Pittsburgh

Training school for children's librarians

The school opened Monday, October 9, with 14 students, 4 in the senior class, 7 in the junior class, and 3 special students.

Senior class

Beatrice Medill Kelly, Steubenville, Ohio; Emily Biddle Meigs, Indianapolis, Ind.; Mabel Ethelind Scripps, Evanston, Ill.; Bolette Sontum, Christiania, Norway.

Junior class

Frances Eunice Bowman, Jerseyville, Ill.; Agnes Lyall, South Millbrook, N. Y., Vassar college, B. A. 1905; Marie Hammond Milliken, Pittsburg, Pa., Wellesley college, B. A. 1905; Helen Carlisle Moore, Pittsburg, Pa., Pennsylvania college for women, B. A. 1905; Helen Nason Murray, Utica, N. Y., assistant in children's department, Utica public library, July-September, 1905; Agnes Lois Newton, Cleveland, Ohio, substitute in children's department, Cleveland public library, October 1904-September 1905; Adah Frances Whitcomb, Chicago, Ill.

Special students

Alice Arabella Blanchard, Montpelier, Vt., Smith college, B. L. 1903, New York state library school, 1904-05; Laure Claire Foucher, Boston, Mass., Simmons college library school, 1903-05; Lucy Dalbiac Luard, Wollaston, Mass., Simmons college library school, 1902-05, Assistant in library, North Bennett industrial school, Boston, July-September, 1904, June-September, 1905.

In addition to the regular lectures for the month of October there were two special lectures. Henry E. Legler of the Wisconsin free library commission gave a talk on the work of the Wisconsin commission and Prof. Benoyendra Nath Sen, leader of the Brahmo Somaj of India and professor of history in Presidency college, Calcutta, spoke to the students on Education in India.

The recent appointment of students to positions are as follows:

Mary F. Carpenter, general assistant, children's department, Carnegie library of Pittsburg; Mary M. Craig, children's librarian, Cleveland public library; Beatrice M. Kelly, children's librarian, Mt Washington branch, Carnegie library of Pittsburg; Adelaide L. Martin, children's librarian, Cleveland public library; Amena Pendleton, children's librarian, Brooklyn public library; Elizabeth N. Robinson, children's librarian, City library, Lincoln, Neb.; Bolette Sontum, children's librarian, Wylie avenue branch, Carnegie library of Pittsburg.

Two special students, Kathrine H. MacAlarney of the Free library of Philadelphia and Ruth K. Field of the Cleveland public library, who were on a year's leave of absence while taking a special course in this school, have returned to their respective libraries, where they have been appointed children's librarians.

Illinois

The Illinois state library school has recently made a valuable addition to its special collection of literature by the purchase of the library of the late Carl Dziatzko, librarian of the University of Göttingen and director of the only school of library science in Germany. This library is composed of scarce monographs and pamphlets, and standard works in paleography, printing and illustration, with considerable material on Gutenberg. Additional interest attaches to the collection from the fact that many of the volumes are presentation copies containing autographs of the authors. A large proportion are also annotated by Dr Dziatzko and some are interleaved and extra illustrated.—*Press bulletin*.

New Jersey library commission

It is very important that even the smallest library be well and economically administered. They can not be so administered unless the person in charge of them is familiar with modern library methods, and acquainted with some of the details of book purchasing. The Public library commission has concluded that, in the light of its own ob-

servations, and of the reports made as to the conditions in many of the small libraries of the state, it can make no better use of a part of its appropriation than by establishing and maintaining next year a short library summerschool.

The school will be continued for four weeks in June or July; the teachers, the material and the books on which to work will be furnished by the commission, the only expense for those who attend it being the cost of board, which can be obtained for \$5 per week. The school, which is to cover the whole ground of library administration, will be very elementary in its instruction, that it may appeal particularly to the librarians of the smallest libraries. If it is successful it will be continued the succeeding year, perhaps in another part of the state.

New York state library

The fall work is going on very smoothly. Juniors as well as seniors are this year taking Mr Eastman's course in library buildings. Miss Wheeler, who has for 14 years been so closely associated with Mrs Fairchild, is giving the course on book selection most acceptably to the students. Fortunately for the school, Mrs Fairchild has for many years been arranging all her work so as to leave the results of her experience and studies readily available to her understudies. The very ample records and notes, to which one assistant has given much time, enable those who have divided up her work to utilize readily the results of her long experience. The director takes her courses on American libraries and librarians and such other work as depends on large acquaintance with the library movement of the past quarter century. Miss Woodworth, of course, continues the general executive work, which she has had since the school came to Albany in 1889. Miss Beal has immediate charge of and takes the full responsibility for the library for the blind. Miss Bacon takes the remainder of the work and is in charge of the daily program. The vice-director's work is thus fully provided for.

Several nonresident lecturers have agreed to contribute their experience during the year to make up for the serious loss of Mr Johnston's reference course. Mr Eastman has this year the help of Asa Wynkoop as sub-inspector of libraries and is therefore giving more time than heretofore to the school, to its advantage. After January 1 the director's resignation of his other duties takes effect, so that till he leaves Albany the school will have more of his time than he has ever been able to give to it before.

Students and faculty are greatly interested in the outcome of a notice just issued by the State civil service commission that it will receive till December 12 applications from candidates for the directorship of the school. The difficulty is much greater than to find a satisfactory librarian. Besides all the personal and professional qualifications needed for the librarian, the successful director of a library school ought to have the rare gift for teaching, with wide experience in the needs of different classes of libraries. As graduation from a college registered as maintaining proper standards is demanded of every graduate for admission, and as Albany is the only school that has had any large proportion of men among its students, obviously the new director should be a college man of force and reputation enough to attract the high-grade men who would be so valuable in our growing profession. No alumnus or friend of the school can render it a greater service than to discover and suggest the ideal man for this position. It is gratifying that high officials chiefly concerned in the reorganization assert that if the school is continued at Albany it must not only fully maintain but advance the prestige it has won in the past, and that the request for applications from candidates, which has been opened to nonresidents of New York, is for the purpose of securing the very best to be had in the country as nothing else would satisfy the appointing powers.

On October 30 A. L. Peck of Gloversville gave two very practical lectures on book buying and book importing.

November 3 Mr and Mrs Dewey gave a reception to faculty and students at their home, which for 17 years has been always open with a warm welcome to every student, graduate, or friend of the school. The sign "For sale" means that the director will after this year live elsewhere; but the new home will always hold the same cordial welcome as the old, for the attachments are not to a special building or city, which is merely incidental, but to ideas and ideals, which will be the same wherever those holding them in common may meet.

The first graduate of the school to meet all conditions for the degree of master of library science is J. I. Wyer, librarian of the University of Nebraska and secretary of the A. L. A., who thus has the distinction of heading this M. L. S. honor roll. This degree is not given in course, but only for distinctly recognized fitness and character, 5 years of marked success in library work after receiving the B. L. S. degree, contributions to professional literature of recognized worth and such other conditions as the faculty may require.

D. V. R. Johnston's resignation September 1 was the occasion of most cordial expressions of personal and professional esteem made unanimously by the faculty at its October meeting. They asked him to continue his course of lectures in the school and to retain his seat in the faculty, and his decision that he was unwilling to do so under the changed conditions was received with great regret. He has, however, expressed the warmest interest in the school, and a willingness to aid it in every way in his power as soon as it has a permanent, satisfactory home.

Summer session

1906 would be the fourth year in the rotation announced. Cataloging and classification in 1903 was followed by bibliography and reference work in 1904, and by administration in 1905. Mrs Fairchild was to have taken charge of the course for 1906 on book selection and reading. Her breakdown last April it was thought would be temporary and that she might be well enough to take

up this course next June. Since her steady failure has made it impossible to hope that she could resume her school work, it is likely that for the course which she has been preparing cataloging and classification will be substituted or that the summer session this year may be omitted.

Pratt institute

The list of lecturers engaged for the winter term is as follows, subject to possible changes of date:

January 5. A. E. Bostwick, How the work of a public library system differs from that of a public library.

January 12. B. S. Wildman (1899), Books for the foreign population.

January 19. F. L. Rathbone (1902), The problem of the small library.

January 26. E. D. Renninger (1896), The work of the organizer.

February 2. J. L. Pettee (1895), The college librarian.

February 9. H. W. Kent, The cultivation of the librarian.

February 16. H. L. Cowing (1902), The place of technical books in a public library.

February 23. Dr E. C. Richardson, Future of library work in the United States.

March 2. F. P. Hill, The A. L. A.: its history, its plans, and the approaching conference.

March 9. M. L. White, On book-making and illustration.

March 16. J. C. Dana, Printing.

March 23. Jessie Bingham, Art in picture-bulletins.

A new circular of the school has just been issued, showing the number of hours instruction in the various branches, with the time spent in laboratory and field work.

The officers of the class of 1906 are: Julia Rupp, Rochester, Minn., president.; Ruth Whitney, San Diego, Cal., vice-president; Harold A. Mattice, New York, secretary and treasurer.

Changes in positions of graduates

Irene Hackett (1897), formerly librarian of the Y. M. C. A. library of Brooklyn, has been appointed librarian of the

American Book Company, New York city.

Sara Van de Carr (1901) resigned her position as librarian of the Loring memorial library of North Plymouth, Mass., to become head of the circulating department of the Newark public library.

Ruth Nichols (1905) has been engaged as cataloger and indexer by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company of New York city.

Harriette G. Austin (1902) was married to Allston Sargent of Manhattan October 18, and Helen Clarke (1903) to Clarence D. Mathews of Camden, N. J.

M. W. PLUMMER, Director.

Southern library school

The Southern library school of the Carnegie library of Atlanta began its first year September 20, devoting two weeks to practical work before the formal opening of the school for classroom work on October 4.

The course offered is strictly elementary. A certificate will be given to those who successfully pass the prescribed course.

Each graduate will be required to present a practical scheme of organization of a small library as a graduating thesis.

A summary of the class as to states is as follows: Georgia 6, South Carolina 2, Alabama 1, Tennessee 1.

As to education, the list shows five graduates of colleges, three graduates of high schools, with college certificates for special work, and two high school graduates.

ANNE WALLACE, Director.

Syracuse university

The 10 students enrolled in the class of 1907 are with one exception from the state of New York.

Minerva Stubbs (ex 1904) has resigned her position in the library of Columbia university to accept one in Cornell university library.

Edna Bryan and Elsa Oerter (ex 1906) have been appointed to the staff of the New York public library.

Appointments of the class of 1905 are: Clara Wager and Augusta VanNatten,

assistants in the New York public library.

Bessie M. Stone and Emma C. Shreve, assistants in the Syracuse university library.

Mabel C. Johnson, assistant in the Montclair public library, Montclair, N. J.

Elizabeth Buckley, assistant in the Englewood public library, Englewood, N. J.

Edith Kirk, librarian of Cazenovia seminary, Cazenovia, N. Y.

Mary Louise Bates, librarian of the Classical library, University of Chicago.

Anna Green and Margaret Green are supplying in the 96th st. branch of the New York public library.

Minnie L. Roberts (1900) and Laurence E. Wilkins, Ph. B. (1904), were married September 12, and are now making their home in New York city, where Mr Wilkins is taking graduate work in Columbia university. Mrs Wilkins was for four years a member of the staff of the Syracuse university library.

Western Reserve university

The class has completed the study of loan systems under Miss Evans, and students have been assigned for two half-days each week for practice in the circulating departments of the main library and branches of the Cleveland public library. During the absence of the vice-dean in the East, Mr Brett and Miss Eastmand met the classes in selection of books and library organization.

A number of students are taking listeners' courses at the college for women in addition to their regular work in the library school.

The students and faculty of the school were invited to attend the reception given October 9, by the Board of trade to the American civic association, which held its sessions in Cleveland during the first week of October. This meeting was an occasion also for the students to hear the paper of Mr Crunden upon The public library as a factor in civic improvement, and the interesting illustrated lecture of Dr Koch upon Carnegie libraries. Both Mr Crunden and Dr Koch visited the library school. Mr

Crunden spoke to the class upon the ideals of the library worker. It was an inspiring talk enriched with many practical illustrations from personal experience. In an equally delightful manner Dr Koch on the following day told them of his work as an assistant in the Harvard and Cornell university libraries and in the Library of congress. In the latter instance he gave incidentally much valuable information regarding printed catalog cards.

The meeting of the Ohio library association at Bass lake and the sessions of the library institute which were held at the library school following this meeting furnished a pleasant occasion for students to become acquainted with the visiting librarians. Wednesday evening, October 11, the faculty and students of the school received the visiting librarians at Adelbert hall, and on Friday and Saturday following they attended the sessions of the association at Bass lake. About half of last year's junior class were present and together with this year's students made an interesting class reunion. The pleasure of mutual acquaintance was heightened by the presence of the dean and other members of the faculty who introduced in turn, for short after-dinner speeches to the students, the president of the A. L. A., Mr Hill, Mr Legler of Wisconsin and Prof. Root of Oberlin.

During the library institute, Miss Olcott, Pittsburg training school for children's librarians, spoke to the school upon Library work for children, and Miss Ahern upon The librarian as a public servant.

Eliza Ellen Townsend, Western Reserve library school, junior class of 1905, has been called as librarian to the Manistee public library, Michigan. Hortense Foglesong of the same class will succeed her as assistant in the Hatch library, Cleveland. Miss Foglesong has just completed the organization of two special technical collections for manufacturing firms in Cleveland.

ELECTRA C. DOWEN, Director.

Ohio Library Association

Official report

The eleventh annual meeting of the Ohio library association was held at Cleveland and Bass Lake, October 11-14.

The dean and faculty of the Library school, Western Reserve university, tendered a reception to the members at Adelbert hall, on Wednesday evening, October 11. Many of the librarians of the state responded to the invitation to be present, and the evening was delightfully spent.

Thursday morning was devoted to visiting the Cleveland public library, Case library and a number of branch libraries. At noon a dainty lunch was served the visiting librarians in the new Broadway branch library, and to add to the pleasure of the occasion an orchestra rendered some fine music during the lunch hour. After-dinner speeches were made by Pres. Thwing, F. P. Hill, president of the A. L. A., Mr Hodges, president of the O. L. A., and others.

A special car, at 3.30 p. m., took a large number of the librarians to Bass Lake, where the regular sessions of the association meeting were held in the clubhouse.

The association was called to order by Pres. Hodges at 9.30 a. m., October 13. In a few happily chosen words Mr Hodges introduced Linda Eastman. She welcomed the members of O. L. A. and announced that the advance registration promised a larger attendance than ever before. Miss Eastman dwelt at some length upon the charms of the locality, and predicted for the association meeting the brightness of "nature's holiday."

The secretary reported that the association now has a membership of more than 400; 26 new names were added during the year.

The treasurer's report showed the following:

Dues received during year....	\$129.50
Balance in treasury May 24, 1904	68.32
Gift by the president for work of the committee on library training.....	10.00
Fees for library institute.....	7.00
Total.....	\$214.82

Expenditures during the year.. 137.50
Balance on hand Oct. 11, 1905.. 77.32

The report of the Library extension committee made by Miss Boardman, the chairman of the committee, was next given.

Library extension

Your committee sent circulars to all libraries in the state, giving the new law and regulations regarding the free transmission through the mails of books and pamphlets in the embossed print, and the request was made for the names of the blind in the locality.

From the 146 letters sent six replies were received, giving the names of 112 blind persons. Catalogs in raised print have been sent to those libraries. The libraries represented in the answers were mostly the larger libraries of the state and those that have already been doing individual work for blind readers. The names of the blind can be obtained from county records of blind persons applying for pensions allowed the blind, or often if there is one blind reader who is known to the librarian, he will know of others within the radius of the library.

We find there are 13 counties that have no public library within their limits and that there are 184 towns that have no library that can in any sense be called "public," though a majority of them have school libraries and some of them report good Sunday-school libraries. Others report small libraries belonging to a woman's club or society.

We have prepared a map which was printed at the request of our president, showing the towns, represented by the black dots, that have a public library or a college or subscription library open to the public for reference use, which all told do not exceed 80 in number. The corporation libraries in the larger cities have not been counted, for they very largely serve the same constituency as the public library, without improving the library conditions of the state.

The red spots stand for the 184 towns just referred to, varying in size from 1000 to 20,000 people, as having no library.

Of these, 21 are county seats. Others

have large manufacturing interests with hundreds of employees and nothing to improve or entertain them.

Notwithstanding all this, there is a growing interest in library matters. The growth is slow, but there is a notable improvement.

Carnegie libraries were opened this year at Athens, Bellvue, Canton, Kenton, London, Norwalk, and Zenia, and branches at Cincinnati and Cleveland, with Buycyrus, Portsmouth and Warren almost ready for occupancy. The subscription libraries at Findlay, Norwalk and Urbana have been reorganized and made public. Dayton has built a \$6000 addition and has furnished a reading-room for the blind, which has an average weekly attendance of 10 blind people.

Cochocton and Lorain have each adopted the "story hour" for their children's room, much to the delight of the little folks, who attend in large numbers.

Gifts from Mr Carnegie this year are to Celina, Clyde, Columbus Grove, Germantown and West Park, \$10,000 each; to Norwood \$20,000, also gifts in different amounts to the libraries of Heidelberg and Otterbein universities, Marietta and Oberlin colleges.

Wooster university has received a gift from Mr Frick of Pittsburg to build an addition to the library.

The Birchard library at Freemont has received a gift of \$2500 from a former resident, Mrs Kelly, and Miss Haynes put the electric lights in the building.

Lorain was given \$100 to purchase technical books by the National Tube Company of that city.

W. S. Hawk of New York city, a former Canton man, presented the library there a check for \$500 to be used in the purchase of books for the children's room; the library is also indebted to him for some valuable art books and a beautiful marble statue of Sappho.

Other libraries have received money, raised by popular subscription for the purchase of books, so the library activities for the past year show a marked improvement.

Your committee is unanimously of the

opinion that no very effective work can be done toward library extension by a committee of busy people, no matter how willing or capable the members may be. We believe there should be someone paid to visit every one of the 180 towns, whose business it should be to create a library sentiment where none exists, and to foster and develop it to a fruitful end in those places that are already interested.

In no other way can the work be successfully carried on. We therefore recommend that the Ohio library association use its influence to secure such an officer.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE BOARDMAN,
Chairman.

The report of the committee on legislation was made by the chairman, S. L. Wycoff. The following was presented and adopted:

Resolved, that the incoming committee on legislation be directed to urge at the next session of the legislature, and, if possible secure such legislation as will authorize the appointment of a library organizer and provide for a general county library system.

Report of committee on interrelation of libraries was next made by A. S. Root, its chairman.

Interrelation of libraries

The substance of the report of the committee on interrelation of libraries was that there did not seem to be need at present of further extension of the relations of the State library. The prime questions seemed to be as to what the libraries of the state can do toward helping one another to make more efficient and useful the service of each library. The committee suggested that the state be divided into two distinct classes, class A and class B. Class A to include the large state libraries and the larger reference and college libraries of the state and class B to include the ordinary public libraries of the smaller cities and villages. Libraries belonging to class A would possess scholarly works of every description and a considerable measure of their income would be spent in buying books of substantial solid worth

for the purpose of research. Libraries of class B find themselves compelled to buy for the popular demand for books of which the largest part are of recreative character. With scant means and a small staff the money available for scholarly books is limited and there is little time for bibliographical research. This being the case it would seem a helpful thing to group the libraries of the states into districts, each one of which should contain one or more of the libraries of class A, and establish definite arrangements by which they should co-operate with the libraries of class B in the way of loans of bibliographical works, etc., so that from a nearby source and at comparatively small expense books needed for serious study and for advanced work of any character might be readily procured. The libraries of class A might provide for an exchange among themselves of library bulletins, printed catalog cards for specific classes and other aids that would enable any library in class A to have sent to it the material needed.

There does not seem to be any special difficulty in working out a system of coöperation whereby even the smallest library in the state might have at its disposal the resources of some or all of the larger libraries. A formal recognition of the obligation of the libraries to each other would increase the sense of freedom in asking for help of libraries in class B.

Subjects for future consideration might be the holding of a library week by the libraries of class A for the librarians of the smaller libraries in its vicinity, in which its methods might be exhibited and actual practice given in elementary cataloging, classification, reference work and the like.

It might be possible also that the work of the proposed library inspector, for which the association has been asking, might be done in a friendly spirit by the larger libraries. Such as the inspection of libraries, making suggestions as to improved methods, etc. This work would have to be done carefully as in no very great degree will it ever be pos-

sible for one library to guide and direct the policy of another.

It might be possible also for the smaller libraries to be relieved from the care of seldom called for works which have come to them by gift and for which their constituency have little use, by storing them in the central library in their district which would hold them ready to be at the service of the libraries in its district whenever called for.

The larger libraries might send the duplicates of books and magazines of popular character that come into its possession from time to time to smaller libraries as they might be much more useful in a library of a more popular sort.

In all these things the larger libraries would be put in a formal relation of co-operating with smaller libraries in their vicinity by the districting of the state for that purpose.

The committee on necrology reported on the death of H. L. Henson, H. M. Parker, Mrs. Frances D. Jermain, Mrs. Martha B. Wright, Ellen Somers Wilson, Lenora Laundon, and Sophie Mery.

The president then introduced Mr. Legler of the Wisconsin free library commission. Mr. Legler gave a very interesting talk on the progress being made in library extension in his state, particularly dwelling upon the importance of having in the field the active worker—the state of Wisconsin now has five of these field workers employed. Mr. Legler expressed himself as deeply interested in the passage of a bill providing for a library organizer in the state of Ohio, and sincerely hoped the legislature will make such provision at its next session.

E. C. Hovey, assistant secretary of the American library association, followed Mr. Legler, speaking briefly upon some of the important work of the A. L. A.

The afternoon session on Friday was given up to the College library section, Miss Orr of Marietta college, chairman. Mr. Root of Oberlin college library gave a very interesting talk on Book-buying in Germany, in which he ex-

plained the methods of German booksellers in conducting their business, and showed why it takes so long to get a book imported from Germany. His conclusion, derived both from experience in ordering books, and from his personal examination of the subject when in Germany, is that for new books it is well to order of the American importer; but old books either out of print, or of which secondhand copies are desired, can be obtained most quickly and most satisfactorily by ordering direct from a reliable dealer in Germany.

The president, Miss Orr, read a carefully prepared and very interesting paper on The college librarian and the student. "In lighter vein" was conducted by Charles Orr of Cleveland, in an impromptu, humorous style, affording considerable amusement. Pres. Perry of Marietta college not being present the round table feature to be led by him was abandoned.

The Friday evening session was devoted to the address of the president, which was a complete departure from the usual form, being a very entertaining lecture on his European travels, illustrated by stereopticon pictures; the whole given as an illustration of how the Cincinnati public library is now using the stereopticon method to interest children in geography and travel.

At the Saturday morning session the election of officers for the coming year was held, resulting in the following selections: President, Electra C. Doren, Cleveland; first vice-president, Burton E. Stevenson, Chillicothe; second vice-president, Willia Cotton, Marietta; third vice-president, W. F. Sewall, Toledo; secretary, Matilda Light, Dayton; treasurer, Grace Prince, Springfield.

The committee on resolutions also made report. The remainder of the morning was devoted to the session of the Small library section, Miss Mercer, chairman, presiding.

Miss Morse of Youngstown gave a most helpful talk on Economies. Miss Chapman of Loraine advised as to advertising a small library, and Miss Clatworthy discussed Some small library

problems. Miss Gymer read a paper on Personal work with children, which will appear in full in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

At the Saturday afternoon session the report of the committee on Relation of libraries to schools was made by Miss Power, chairman of the committee.

At 8 p. m. was held the closing session, at which the committee on library training made report through its chairman, Miss Doren.

Report on library training

The work of your committee in the past year has been confined solely to the development of plans for holding the library institute which is announced upon the program to follow this meeting. This is the third institute to be held in the state in the last five years.

Lack of convenient centers for holding such meetings, lack of funds for the expenses of lecturers and instructors to conduct them, and the time and expense involved for attendance have operated against the development of a more definite or systematic series of institutes for library workers.

On account of the fact that the institute is held this year at a library school, the character of it, while informal, is nevertheless fashioned more closely along pedagogical lines than would be the case were the institute to be held elsewhere. The committee wishes to emphasize the fact of the very great usefulness of the more usual form of institute, i. e., the congregation of librarians of a given locality at some central point—preferably, of course, a library, where the details of library problems may be discussed with some experienced worker. Such sessions should be frequent during the year and should be held in different parts of the state so that the librarians in the more isolated communities could come together with the least expenditure of time and money. Half-day sessions taking up one subject at a time held four times a year would doubtless be as effective in many localities as a longer session, and might very properly lead up to an institute of the

character about to be undertaken at this session of the association.

Linda M. Clatworthy, chairman of the special committee on cataloging, made report of the work this committee has done since the 1904 meeting. (See page 516.) This report was accepted and the committee continued, as its work is not yet completed.

The president then declared the eleventh annual meeting of the O. L. A. adjourned. This was one of the most successful meetings the association has yet held, and too much praise can not be given to Mr Brett and his corps of assistants, together with the faculty of the library school, for their untiring efforts to make the meeting a great success.

Many of those in attendance upon the meeting remained at Bass lake over Sunday, finding much to enjoy in its quiet beauty.

As announced, the institute for library workers, provided through the coöperation of the dean and faculty of Western reserve university library school and the O. L. A. committee on library training, opened for work on Monday, October 16.

Lectures were given upon subjects of vital importance to librarians and assistants, such as cataloging, reference work, library records and administration, book repair and bookbinding, work for children, etc.

It is not possible in this brief space to give a detailed account of the three days' sessions of the institute, but all who had the privilege of attending felt they had enjoyed a rare treat and expressed the hope that this was but the beginning of what may grow to be a permanent feature of the O. L. A. meeting.

EMMA GRAHAM, Sec.

Prof. C. F. Richardson of Dartmouth college has issued through G. P. Putnam's Sons a very helpful volume, the Choice of books, to which is added suggestions for collecting household libraries, with lists of books of reference, history, biography and literature. It would be a good book to recommend to literary clubs and persons seeking advice on personal libraries and reading.

Ohio Library Institute

The O. L. A. institute for library workers was held as announced, at the library school of Western Reserve university, Monday-Wednesday, October 15-18.

Subjects and instructors were as follows:

1 Bookbinding and repair—Miss Woodard, six hours, including practical work. Each student repaired, sewed and bound one pamphlet. Sewing of the book was exhibited by the instructor.

2 Cataloging; discussion and problem—Miss Whittlesey, four hours.

3 Reference work; discussion and problem—Mr Williams, four hours.

4 Library records, question box—Miss Evans, one hour.

5 Library administration, question box—Miss Doren, one hour.

6 Children's work under the direction of Miss Burnite, eight hours.

Lecture—Miss Doren.

Lecture—Selection of books illustrated by lists, Miss Burnite.

Lecture—Organization and equipment of a children's room, Miss Burnite. Illustrated by visits to two libraries.

On Tuesday evening Miss Ahern gave an interesting and practical talk upon The librarian.

Wednesday evening Miss Jones described in a simple and interesting manner the work of the Ohio state university library. Mr Brett spoke upon library buildings, illustrating essentials from plans of the Carnegie buildings in process of erection. The formal sessions of the institute closed with a few words from members of the faculty and visitors present.

Thursday morning Miss Eastman conducted students upon a visit to the new Carnegie branches.

Total hours of attendance, including all discussions and problems, 26; 29 students representing 20 different Ohio libraries enrolled for lectures and problem work. Students of the library school were present at lectures, but did not do the problem work. Pres. Hodges, Miss Smith, Miss Ahern, Miss Olcott, Olive Jones, Prof. Root and others visited the classes.

The dean of the school, Mr Brett, the vice-librarian of the Cleveland public

library, Miss Eastman, and the superintendent of children's work in the Cleveland public library, Miss Burnite, contributed most generously of their time and effort. The Western Reserve university contributed time of the instructors for two days, also clerical service for typewriting, correspondence, and mimeographing, etc. N. D. C. Hodges, president of O. L. A., gave a generous contribution toward defraying expenses.

Library Meetings

Alabama—The annual meeting will be held at Mobile, December 4-6. It is intended to bring together librarians, library workers and friends of the library movement from all parts of the state, and an earnest appeal and invitation is extended to all friends interested to attend. The program opens a wide field for discussion of every phase of library development in the state. Every section of the state is represented in the discussions as arranged by the executive council. The council selected Mobile as the place of this year's meeting because of the cordial invitation that was extended by the combined library interests of the Gulf city. The initial meeting of the organization was held in the Carnegie library in Montgomery November 21 last year.

California—The October meeting of the Library association of California was held in Bakersfield, October 20-21.

At the reception at the Woman's club Friday evening Judge Brundage made the address of welcome. Pres. Lichtenstein responded. He expressed appreciation of the hospitality of the city and outlined the purpose of the meeting. Charles S. Green of Oakland public library, in his address on The modern public library, traced the development of the library from its beginning, through the ages when the library was simply a collection of books to be jealously guarded, to the present time. He dwelt particularly upon the development of libraries in California, and showed by comparison with another state how great a work still remains to California librarians and to her citizens.

The regular business session was called to order Saturday morning at half past nine by Pres. Lichtenstein. The president called attention to the very interesting exhibits of library aids, forms and blanks, and to the application forms for membership in the American library association. He urged that it is a duty to belong to the national as well as to the state association.

The general subject of discussion for this meeting was Needs of the smaller library treated from various points of view. Papers of more technical nature were read; those of more general interest were reserved for the evening session.

The first paper was on Book purchase and book selection for the small library by Mabel Prentiss of Pomona public library. Careful selection of books, both for their lasting value, and for their particular interest to the locality, was advised. Pamphlets and booklets which can be had for nothing are often of value to the small library, as are also certain publications of the United States government easily obtained. The best methods of purchasing books were discussed. Submitting lists for bids to different firms, and "it pays to wait," were the points strongly emphasized.

The subject of the Catalog as a need of the small library was then discussed by Grace Hurlburt of Visalia.

Mrs Jacobs of Napa followed with a paper on Reference needs of the small library, which might well be taken as the purchasing list for reference books for a small library.

Bertha Kumli of the State library then spoke briefly on Periodicals: what should be ordered and how ordered.

Miss Waterman of Santa Cruz followed with remarks on the need of a magazine exchange. She mentioned the accumulation of magazines, many of them valuable as reference sets, or to complete reference volumes, in many libraries. It occurred to her that there should be some system of exchange between libraries—a sort of central clearing house. She outlined a plan whereby each library should pay an entrance fee of a certain prescribed amount, and for

such magazines as were deposited by each library, it should receive credits according to a definite table of valuations for different magazines; each library to draw upon its credit thus established for such magazines as it might need. There followed much discussion on this subject of magazine exchange, and it was finally put to vote: Is this magazine exchange a long-felt want? It was carried unanimously. The president appointed a committee to investigate the subject.

Through the courtesy of the Board of trade of Bakersfield, an excursion to the oil fields occupied the afternoon.

At the opening of the evening session, Pres. Lichtenstein made a few brief remarks on the work and aims of the American library association and read Mr Hovey's letter on Why I should join the A. L. A.

The first paper for the evening was The relation of the library to the school, by Miss McFadden of Santa Ana. Much discussion was aroused by this paper, on the necessity of forming the library habit in the school children.

Frank Ellsworth of Tulare in his paper on The librarian showed that much of the success of the library depends on the librarian; he must indeed be a leader and a teacher.

The remainder of the session was devoted to general discussion of How to increase the appropriation.

Just before the close of the meeting Mr Green of Oakland rose to introduce the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Library association of California is deeply impressed with the need of a library training school for California. We hold it contrary to the declared policy of the state that any of her children should be forced to leave her borders to obtain any sort of useful knowledge. We affirm that our growing profession is worthy of recognition by the furnishing of systematic instruction. Since most of our California libraries are still small and unable to pay large salaries, we believe that the first instruction needed is on the more elementary grades of library science, leaving the graduate work to be undertaken when there are more positions requiring the higher grades of service.

The resolution was put to vote and carried unanimously.

MAMIE BENNETT, Sec. pro tem.

Chicago—The regular monthly meeting of the Chicago library club for November took place Thursday evening, November 9, at the Chicago public library, the president, Miss Ahern, in the chair.

Jessie L. Forester, Hope Mason and Nancy Christopher of the Art institute library, Mary Van Horne, librarian of the Lake Forest public library, the Misses Ludlenn of Pullman public library and Dr J. C. Bay of the John Crerar library were elected to membership in the club.

E. C. Hovey, assistant secretary of the A. L. A., was introduced and presented the claims of the A. L. A. for membership and the necessity of raising funds for that organization. He said there were 10,000 librarians and less than 1500 belonged to the A. L. A., and Illinois furnished less than 100 members.

Mr Josephson, chairman City charter committee, sent in a report to the effect that the city council had given the desired authorization to the mayor for the appointment of a commission to investigate and gather information in regard to libraries, museums, etc., and that on October 23 the following commission was appointed: Charles L. Hutchinson, chairman, Jane Addams, James F. Bowers, Dr F. W. Gunsaulus, F. J. V. Skiff, Charles F. Gunther, Prof. Graham Taylor.

The subject for the evening's discussion was a Library from the trustee's point of view. The smaller libraries were to be specially considered and were represented by 10 or more trustees.

C. J. Barr, trustee from River Forest public library, opened the program with a history of the recently opened library in that suburb. It was organized by the Woman's club. He called his paper The short and simple annals of the poor, and described the chief troubles and drawbacks encountered by the board. Mr Barr was followed by Mr Gould and Mr Budinghouse of Wilmette, Mr Blackmer and Mr Pebbles of Oak Park, Mr Johnson and Prof. Lanford of Lagrange and Mr Novak of the Chicago public library. All gave history of organization and present conditions of their various libraries. The talks

showed that even in these small libraries, where there was much to discourage, still there was good and enthusiastic work being done. The members of the club present were deeply interested and felt that for the first time since the organization they had really come in close touch with trustees and their difficulties. The trustees expressed satisfaction in the meeting and felt that their time in coming had been well spent.

EVA L. MOORE, Sec.

Georgia—The library association has issued an invitation to an interstate meeting of southern libraries to be held in Atlanta, Dec. 8-9, 1905, at the Carnegie library. The object is to develop an effective coöperation to bring together local influence, to bring about uniformity of methods and to stimulate the public toward a more liberal support of libraries.

Indiana—The fourteenth annual meeting of the Indiana library association was held at Muncie, October 19-20.

The auditorium of the Muncie public library was made most attractive by exhibits of pictures from Prang Educational Company, Chicago; Chicago Art Educational Company, Chicago; Soule Photographic Company, Boston; Berlin Photographic Company, New York; Curtis & Cameron Company, Boston. Bobbs-Merrill & Co. sent an exhibit of holiday books and Library Bureau, Chicago, library appliances.

The president, Artena M. Chafin, opened the meeting with an address on Indiana library association: its duties and aims.

The association was organized in 1891 for the purpose of stimulating library interest in various ways. The State library commission has now reached the point where it is able to give assistance in all practical library affairs. The State library has charge of the State library interests. It is left to the State library association to stir up and keep going the interests which belong to the other institutions here represented.

The first subject considered was that of Guides for the selection of books for

a small library, by Virginia Tutt, South Bend public library. Miss Tutt quoted the A. L. A. bulletin No. 17, A. L. A. catalog of 8000v., A. L. A. monthly *Booklist*, Boston, Pittsburg, Brooklyn and St Louis library bulletins and Books for boys and girls by Miss Hewins, A thousand best novels compiled by Newark free public library, the Cumulative book index and Cumulative book review digest. For magazines the *Dial* and the *Nation*.

Livina Knowlton, of the Gertrude Stiles bindery, Chicago, gave a talk on bookbinding with practical illustrations. Miss Knowlton showed the advantage of library binding, which is sewed on tape and made of the best material. Belle S. Hanna, Greencastle public library, read a paper on Reference books for a small library. Miss Hanna gave a list of reference books which they found most useful at Greencastle.

The revision of the constitution was discussed, which resulted in a motion made by Mr Cunningham, that the amendments offered to constitution by Miss Hoagland be printed and that a copy of them be presented to each member in ample time for consideration before next meeting of the association. This motion was carried.

The evening session was held at the auditorium of the Commercial club. T. F. Rose, president of the Muncie library board, welcomed the association to Muncie and introduced Reuben G. Thwaites, secretary of State historical society, Wisconsin. He read a most excellent paper on the library as a factor in popular education. A reception by the Muncie library board followed.

Dr Horace Ellis, president of Vincennes university, opened the Friday morning session with a paper on the First library in Indiana. He also brought with him some of the books from this library with the signature of William Henry Harrison in one or two of them.

J. P. Dunn, secretary of Indiana historical society, read a scholarly paper on the life of Father Gibault.

Mr Hepburn, Purdue university li-

brary, gave a talk on Evaluation of literature. Mr Hepburn said whether or not evaluation of books will mean much to the library depends a good deal on the idea or ideal it has for itself. If the library is a commercial enterprise there will be a certain standard set for its purchases. If it is a philanthropic institution then there will be another standard of a very different character. Is the library on the level of the department store? If so, its wares must be those that are in fashion; it must cater to the taste of its patrons and its only standard will be the demand of the people. We are all agreed that neither the taste of nor demands of the users nor the personal wishes of the officers of the library should rule. The new conception of the library as an educational factor in the community is now prominent and when we get this point of view it involves entirely new and higher standards of evaluation of the material comprising a library.

H. S. Wedding, Wabash college library, read a paper on

College reference work

Mr Wedding said in part: Reference work places the librarian with his equipment face to face with the person in search of information. He may not be entirely or even partially responsible for the resources of the library and methods adopted, but he can not escape the knowledge of the tools he will need if the work has been correctly measured. The keeper of tomes faces a multitude of inquirers and is struck by lightning at each interrogation point. Of course this is not literally true, in any climate, but the atmosphere of a college library almost eliminates the element of time in the transmission of queries. It has been stated by Pres. Eliot of Harvard that a book, in order to be accessible in the modern usage and acceptance of the word should be brought from the library shelf within three, or at most five minutes; Harvard, however, maintains a formidable library in a nook of New England, and the good president gives it as his own opinion that the time might

be conservatively extended to 24 hours. The German universities, or some of them, set this killing pace. Assuming that there exists an accessibility of better proportions in most instances, the reference work of the library asks not so much for a particular book, but for the resources of the library on a given subject.

No principle of library economy is brought more into service at this point than classification. It is the librarian's first aid. Classification, catalog, shelf-list, accession records, and charging system all enter into the mechanism for the recovery of a book. Reference work, as I have said, generally goes beyond the reference books set out in the reading-rooms of the college or public library, free of access. I desire, however, to offer here a criticism of the disposition on the part of instructors to hold students aloof from the use of encyclopedias and standard works of reference. Too often students are burdened with the thought of sources and research, when the quickest road to the information desired is by a statistical abstract, encyclopedia or almanac. It is not the opinion that thoroughness should in any way be discouraged, but that a college or university student should attain some practice in bibliographical work, and use to an extent personal judgment in the selection of authorities. In discussing open shelves Mr. Wedding quotes Pres. Eliot as saying: Open shelves, or the plan of allowing people to go to the shelves themselves, are productive of browsing, which is not the most nutritious feeding. I object to the process of browsing. In most public libraries it is out of the question; the browser will become the victim of casual knowledge.

Government reports, with the indexes and printed cards now supplied, and periodical literature hold a prominent part in the reference work of a college library.

In a library of considerable resources, systematic in its mechanical devices, the librarian is fitted for reference work when he draws close to his elbow all the bibliographical aid he can secure.

In the afternoon session Mr. Henry reported the progress of the Indiana bibliography. He reported 1000 cards turned in. Sara Messing, Indianapolis public library, charmingly told a story illustrative of the children's hour. Miss Phelps of Public library commission conducted a question box.

The committee on resolutions reported the usual resolutions of thanks, etc., among which was the following:

Be it further resolved that the books left of the first public library of Indiana, now on deposit in Vincennes university, are of the greatest interest and value to the state, as the nucleus of the modern library movement in this commonwealth, and that therefore the best possible care should be taken of them. That in the opinion of the association it would be well to store this collection in a thoroughly fireproof construction, such as is offered by the State library, with the understanding that the collection may be withdrawn at the pleasure of the trustees who now have their care.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Lillian B. Arnold, Michigan City; vice-president, Annette Clark, New Albany; secretary, Harold Lindley, Richmond; treasurer, F. R. Kautz, Indianapolis.

The association accepted the invitation to meet at Kokomo next year. We adjourned unanimous in the opinion that the meeting at Muncie, which was a breaking away from the beaten path, was a success.

KATHARINE FISHER, Sec.

Iowa—The sixteenth annual meeting of the Iowa library association was held in Fort Dodge, Oct. 25-27, 1905, as a tribute to Capt. W. H. Johnston, pioneer of the library movement in Iowa. The sessions were held in the auditorium of the Free public library, with 108 members in attendance.

The first session was called to order by the president, Mrs. Horace M. Towner, on Wednesday afternoon.

Capt. W. H. Johnston, honorary president of the association, and president of the library board, Fort Dodge, gave a most cordial address of welcome, in which he reviewed not only the history of the association but also the library work of the state, calling to mind many

early coworkers. He praised librarians, whose duty he said was "to hand out the best thought of the world to the open minds of those who receive this thought."

Senator C. J. A. Ericson, vice-president of the association, responded in fitting words, giving entertaining reminiscences of visits to Fort Dodge 40 years ago, and praising the hospitality of the people. He spoke of the work of Capt. Johnston, not only in building and establishing his home library, but also of his untiring energy in behalf of the Iowa library association and library interests of the state.

Mrs. Towner then gave the president's address, presenting the association meeting as a harvest time when the fruit of the year's work is gathered, and dwelling on the growth of the Iowa library association, library interests over the state, the work of the commission, State library and historical societies.

She spoke in part as follows:

We realize the value of united effort and feel that individuality is not lessened but strengthened by association. Isolation is selfishness. It is only by the stimulus of sympathy that aspiration is strongly stirred; it is only by association that the human mind pictures us to ourselves. . . . To put the means of personal knowledge and education everywhere within the reach of the people, in such manner and in such form that it is truly a means of education, is the task with which we are charged, is the reason for all library agencies of the state. The task entrusted to us as a library association is to make these agencies as effective and as widely helpful as possible. Do you remember Robert Louis Stevenson's Lantern bearers? Those lads of the wind-swept, sea-swept hamlet on the bleak Scotch coast, who sallied forth at night, each equipped with a tin bull's-eye lantern buckled to his waist upon a cricket belt? These boys, of whom Stevenson would have us believe he was one, carried these lanterns, we are told, for their own benefit and delight: "The essence of bliss being to walk by yourself in the black night: the slide shut, the top coat buttoned; not a ray escap-

ing, and all the while, down deep in your heart to know that you had a bull's-eye at your belt, and to exult and sing over the knowledge." The library worker is also a "lantern bearer." He carries a flame which not only gladdeneth his own heart, but which irradiates light everywhere he goes. He has no thought to hide it and only flash its beams to startle and dismay; he carries it high up as a torch to brighten the path and make safe the way to knowledge and to truth. Each individual "lantern bearer" shall thus for himself or herself bear a manifest part in lighting the world. Nowhere does individual service count for more than in library work. . . .

It is true that in the measure with which men are endowed with genius, capacity, and energy will their sphere of influence be enlarged, but it is also none the less true that in every grade of endowment, in every degree of capacity, individual influence has commanding power. Not only in the divine initiative, the heaven-born revelation of a great truth to a great heart, but in that not less necessary power, the transmission and transfusion of ideas into life, of theories into conduct, of great thoughts into great deeds, which mark progress and make possible the development of man. The helpful thought unuttered dies barren. Only when it takes the form of a human appeal does it fructify and bear fruit. The moving impulse of progress, from the highest to the lowest, is a human appeal. For all time and all men there but one practical, efficient rule of progress: to receive and communicate truth.

To the librarian is given the opportunity and responsibility of individual influence, the mightiest power for good or evil ever given to man or woman.

Let us learn together the great truth that is more important, more vital, more hopeful than any other ever born into the minds of men: that duties are more important even than rights, that the great opportunity of life is service, and the greatest blessing of life usefulness.

A tribute to Capt. W. H. Johnston was paid by Ella M. McLoney of Des Moines.

She reviewed the early history of the association, especially emphasizing Capt. Johnston's faithfulness through all the years.

Mrs J. J. Seerley of Burlington followed with fraternal greetings from the Iowa federation of woman's clubs, of which she is president. She said that the two organizations were so closely allied as to have common interests and noted how often in traveling over the state she was asked: Have you seen our public library? and the many places in which a woman's club is struggling to start a library.

Alice Tyler followed with the report of the Iowa library commission, not only for the year but a summary of the five years of commission work in Iowa. She spoke of library organization, changes in librarians' positions, gifts, legislation, traveling libraries, publications, summer school, free postal delivery of books for the blind, and coöperation with women's clubs, teachers' institutes, and Chautauquas.

Mary E. Downey of Ottumwa conducted a conference of questions affecting the larger libraries discussed as follows:

Work with children in the library. Purchase of books. Miriam E. Carey of Burlington.

Lectures and exhibits. Publishing the annual report. Harriet A. Wood of Cedar Rapids.

Reference bibliographies. Library advertising. Mrs R. A. Oberholtzer of Sioux City.

Public documents. Methods of increasing the circulation. Ella M. McLoney of Des Moines.

Apprentice classes. Bessie Sargeant Smith of Dubuque.

Wednesday evening the trustees of the Fort Dodge public library gave an informal reception and banquet in the Elks' lodge rooms in honor of the members of the Iowa library association. The affair was a delightful one and showed the rare hospitality of the Fort Dodge people. Mrs Towner happily introduced the speakers who responded to the following toasts: Johnson Brigham of Des

Moines greatly impressed his hearers with Literature: its relation to politics in the Middle West. Miss Carey of Burlington spoke on A touch of nature, applying the quotation to library work by showing how under new version one might say: A touch of fiction makes the whole world kin, and illustrating the same by apt sketches from a librarian's life. B. J. Price of Fort Dodge spoke on Literature and politics, weaving a topic of vital interest to librarians. Miss Smith of Dubuque spoke entertainingly of Old books and new. M. G. Wyer of Iowa City told us Our responsibilities, and Hon. R. M. Wright of Fort Dodge fittingly closed the toasts with The house that has a library has a soul.

The Thursday morning session was devoted to The library trustee: his responsibilities and his problems, in which many phases of the question were presented by trustees present.

A meeting of college librarians was held simultaneously with this session with M. G. Wyer, president, and the following questions of college interest were discussed: Open shelves; Student assistants; Benefits to be derived from opening the library to students during the evening hours; Should the small college library be largely or only partly technical in character, when there is a good public library in the same town? Should books in the college library generally circulate, when the students have the use of a good public library? Is it better to keep bibliographies of subjects for students to use, or to teach them to make out their own bibliographies of special subjects? Should college libraries allow books to be renewed? How often? How far should privileges be granted to professors, such as holding keys to library, withdrawal of books for any length of time?

Thursday noon Mrs Dolliver and Mrs Pearson, assisted by the Fort Dodge chapter of the D. A. R., gave a delightful luncheon to the ladies of the association.

Thursday afternoon's session continued the trustees discussions till three o'clock, when the regular program was

resumed with the general theme, The public library and allied agencies.

Hon. J. F. Riggs, state superintendent of public instruction, gave a valuable paper on Why the school needs a library. (See page 507.)

Mrs T. J. Fletcher, ex-president of the Iowa federation of woman's clubs, in an interesting paper on Interrelation of club and library, spoke of the value of the public library in helping to make the study club of educational value, of the importance of libraries securing woman's club programs as soon as published, procuring the reference books needed and placing them where they will be easily accessible. On the other hand the club woman should make the librarian feel her sympathy and interest and be ready to give her best service to the library.

Harriet A. Wood of Cedar Rapids talked on Local historical societies, saying that Iowa as a state is interested in historical collections but that the state institutions can not do all the work. State and local institutions must cooperate. She detailed the plan of collecting material in the Cedar Rapids library which started with a library day devoted to local historical collections. A historical society was formed which collects material, preserving it as property of the society, but places it in the library to be used as the librarian directs.

Stella V. Seybold of Davenport read a paper on University extension, developing the subject historically and telling what is being done in this work in the United States. (See page 512.)

Pres. G. E. McLean of the State university followed with personal experiences in extension work at Oxford, Cambridge, in Minnesota, and Iowa.

M. G. Wyer of the University of Iowa presented a paper on Art galleries and museums, tracing the union of the library, art gallery, and museum from the earliest times, advocating and setting forth the advantages of their combination under the same management in the smaller towns, while as separate institutions they may cooperate in the larger cities.

Miss Smith told how an art association had been interested in turning over its pictures to the art gallery of the DuBuque library; gifts of pictures, bronzes and casts, with a special collection of bird pictures, attract many visitors to the library who would never otherwise come.

Thursday morning Pres. George E. McLean of the State university of Iowa gave an inspiring address on The public library, the people's palace. He began by setting forth Sir Walter Besant's idea of reclaiming East London, and leading up to Carnegie's Triumphant democracy, saying: The people's palace is the sign and seal of triumphant democracy. Education through the reading of good books and through the elevating process of clear thinking and right living will be the means of eradicating from society the mania for accumulation, and in its place there will spring up an ambition for the duties involved in the great brotherhood of mankind, and service to one's country will become the dominant factor of our society. He offered many practical suggestions in allying other organizations with the public library.

Friday morning session was called to order by the president, and the business of the association occupied the greater part of the morning.

Capt. Johnston, reporting for the necrology committee, paid a fitting tribute to G. M. Wakefield of Sioux City and to Miss Oliver of Onawa. Mrs Oberholtzer spoke of Mr Wakefield as a friend and library trustee. The report was accepted by a rising vote.

The report of the nominating committee was accepted as follows: For president, M. Hale Douglass, Grinnell; for vice-president, Ella M. McLoney, Des Moines; for secretary, Mrs A. J. Barkley, Boone; for treasurer, Mrs J. M. Carpenter, Fort Dodge; for executive committee, M. G. Wyer, Iowa City.

Miss Downey spoke of the importance of the association having both registrar and secretary which was further discussed and left to the executive committee.

The librarians of the larger libraries

organized a section, electing Mary E. Downey of Ottumwa president and Bessie Sargeant Smith of Dubuque secretary.

Mrs Towner introduced the new president and officers and a few minutes were spent in welcoming them.

Miss Tyler continued the librarian's round table with open discussions of the following subjects:

Rebinding of books; Sunday opening; Work in and with the schools; Use of periodicals; Reserving circulation books for reference use, and postal reservation of popular books; Attractive, well-illustrated editions of standard authors versus cheaper ones; Method of borrower's registration; How children may be interested in the classed books; Businesslike treatment of fines and petty cash; Relation of librarian and assistants to the trustees and to the public; The expense budget, estimating fixed expenses for a year in advance.

These helpful discussions closed the session and Mrs Towner announced the conference adjourned.

MARY E. DOWNEY, Sec.

Minnesota—The thirteenth annual meeting of the Minnesota library association was held at the Red Wing public library on Oct. 12-14, 1905. Of the 36 persons registered 30 were librarians, 3 trustees, 1 publisher, 1 binder, and 1 representative of the Library Bureau.

The first meeting was called to order at 8 p. m. by Miss Countryman, president. Superintendent Kunze welcomed the visiting librarians in a few felicitous remarks, and Miss Countryman responded with an address on The library as a social center.* This was replete with interest not only to the librarians but also to the large audience present. She spoke of what the library has done to increase serious reading and study and how it has furthered the educational work of the world; of how the library has another function—that of drawing within its walls in social ways those who would not come otherwise. Children's rooms and club rooms

in various libraries were described, and librarians were urged to cooperate with social, study, missionary and other organizations, to let down all bars and to put face to face our friends the books and our friends the people.

This paper was followed by discussion begun by Mrs Marie E. Brick of St Cloud, who described an unsuccessful attempt to open a reading-room for smokers in the St Cloud public library. Miss Baldwin and Mrs Jacobson of the Library commission and Miss Poirier of Duluth told of practical work in other libraries of the state.

At the close of the exercises the audience adjourned to the large library room upstairs, where an informal reception was held.

Friday morning opened with the business of the association.

The first paper of the morning, by Mrs Jacobson, was on the subject of book selection. She quoted various authorities on the subject, spoke of periodicals as valuable reference material, the use of lists for children's books. Her suggestions were chiefly valuable for small libraries. The discussion on this subject was led by H. W. Wilson of Minneapolis, who recommended the use of indexes and the purchase of books from auction and secondhand catalogs.

Mrs McPherson of the Stillwater library read a paper on County extension system, describing the success of the experiment in Washington county, where it is used. It was a surprise to learn that as early as 1816 the constitution of Indiana provided for the plan of county libraries. Wyoming, Ohio and Wisconsin each have well-organized systems. Minnesota entered the field two years ago and Owatonna in Steel county secured \$300 from county commissioners to begin the work. The first year resulted in a circulation of 1940v., which was more than doubled the following year. Miss Van Buren gave further statistics concerning the Steel county plan.

Warren Upham of the State historical society gave the association an interesting account of the early history of Red

*This paper will appear in full in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Wing and urged that every librarian preserve in her library everything of local interest.

Mr King, state librarian, spoke on the distribution of public documents in Minnesota and promised hearty coöperation to those faint-hearted librarians who have for years tried unsuccessfully to obtain Minnesota state documents.

Lydia M. Poirier of the Duluth public library gave the last paper of the morning on Popular advertising, advocating the newspaper as the best method of informing the public of contents new and old of the library.

The discussion on the subject was led by Miss Sterner of the Winona public library, who told of experiments in the southern part of the state.

The association then adjourned to meet at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon.

The afternoon meeting was devoted to the story hour. Miss Palmer of Rochester gave an able paper on story-telling for children which she treated from the teacher's as well as from the librarian's standpoint. Several of the Red Wing teachers who were present gave personal experiences, and an interesting discussion followed.

A troop of Red Wing children conducted by Mr Kunze assembled at three o'clock, and formed an interested audience for Miss Gladstone, who recounted several of the Uncle Remus stories. These were listened to with breathless interest by the children, who insisted on "More," when her repertoire had been exhausted.

Miss Countryman responded to the plea with two stories, "as told by Miss Bryant," who recently lectured in Minneapolis. These were greeted with applause from both old and young, and the session broke up with much merriment and every one went for the drive which the citizens of Red Wing had planned for the pleasure of the association. The reformatory and pottery works were visited and much of interest was discovered.

The evening session was held at the opera house, which was taxed to its seating capacity by an enthusiastic

audience to greet Pres. Cyrus Northrup of the University of Minnesota. A short musical program preceded the address. Pres. Northrup talked informally concerning his recollections of various statesmen, including Wendell Phillips, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Lincoln, to whom he paid a most beautiful tribute, Cleveland and President Roosevelt.

The meeting was opened on Saturday morning by the report of the resolution committee expressing appreciation of the kindness of the hosts and of the work of the State library commission and its aid in various parts of the state.

The question box was then opened by Miss Countryman and 17 questions on vital points in library work were read and discussed. The nominating committee then proposed the names of officers for the ensuing year as follows: President, Miss Van Buren of Owatonna; vice-president, Miss Poirier of Duluth; secretary, Miss Clute of St Paul; treasurer, Miss Pye of Northfield. A unanimous vote was taken for these names and they were duly declared elected. The retiring officers received a cordial vote of thanks for their services. Invitations for the next meeting were received from Austin, Fairmount and Rochester. Miss Van Buren announced that her appointments for program committee would be made later and the meeting adjourned.

The programs for the meeting were provided by the Red Wing library board. They were attractively made and form a most interesting souvenir for the association.

Missouri—The sixth annual meeting of the Missouri library association was opened on Tuesday evening, October 24, with an address by William L. R. Gifford, librarian of the Mercantile library, St Louis, on

A few phases of public library development

Mr Gifford compared the libraries of the past with the developed institutions of today. He said: The municipal library of the early day too frequently assumed in the popular mind the character of a mausoleum wherein were in-

tered all the accumulations of human wisdom, of which it was expected that some far-distant and unenviable posterity might make an appreciative and reverential use. . . . The characteristics of the public library of today that distinguish it from its forerunner of a generation ago are, in the first place, the growth in volumes; this, though necessarily of very great importance, is no longer the one aim to be borne constantly in mind. The library now spends a much larger portion of its income than ever before in making its books available and in seeking to have them used, and is no longer content with simply adding to their number; in other words, the public library has become an active instead of a passive factor in the system of popular education. . . . Even the large libraries now buy but a small portion of the immense annual output of books. They develop their special collections and endeavor to keep the other departments well balanced and free from serious deficiencies, always with an eye to the particular needs of the community. . . . One of the library's most useful and interesting functions is the collection of material that bears in any way on the history and life of the town. Of all such material the library is the natural depository, and every effort should be made to gather it and make it accessible. The fact that the library has a well-arranged and growing collection of this kind is the strongest possible inducement for the gift of documents and manuscripts, for the acquisition of which almost sole dependence must be placed on private benefaction. A copy of every printed town document, files of the early newspapers, old church records that have come into private hands—these are the things that should be on the shelves of the town library, where they will form not only an indispensable storehouse for the historian but also a collection of great practical value to the citizens in general. . . . I hope the day is not far distant when the library interests of Missouri will receive the much-needed assistance of a state library commission. There are many such

commissions in various states of the union, and the advice and support which they have given have been of incalculable benefit in extending library privileges, especially in the small and thinly settled communities. The same good work can be done in Missouri, if undertaken by a competent commission with the single-hearted purpose of promoting the cause of general education through the medium of free libraries. The Louisiana purchase exposition has done much to awaken Missouri to a consciousness of its wonderful resources and of the great part which it is destined to play in the future development of our country. Can such a commonwealth afford to hold back from its citizens any educational help that it can rightfully give?

A most happy address of welcome by the president of the Library board of Jefferson City, Rev. John F. Hendy, opened the session Wednesday morning, followed by greeting from the city and the state by Hon. W. T. Carrington, state superintendent of schools. He suggested that the Missouri library association be made a department of the State teacher's association of Missouri, and further expressed a desire that they meet at the same time and place.

Pres. James Gerould responded in a few well-chosen words.

The subject of the paper read by Miss Smith, librarian of the Carnegie free library of Sedalia, was

Rules and regulations governing borrowers should be flexible

Miss Smith said in part: The subject assigned to me seems at first thought a very old subject, one in which general principles were settled long ago. Yet our ideas are changing, and the spirit of greater tolerance, which is the spirit of the age, has permeated libraries, and our tendency is to give rather than to exact. We are realizing more and more that the library is for the benefit of those who use it, rather than for the administrators. . . . The question before us is whether any of the old rules may be dispensed with.

The hours of opening a library may be governed by the constituency using it and by the amount of money a library may expend. They should not be so few that they will be crowded with more visitors than can be served conveniently. . . . The requirement of a guarantor's signature is coming to be more of a form than a real security. . . . It seems quite unnecessary and even ridiculous at times to ask a man or a woman prominent in the community, a leader in business, politics or education, to present a guarantor's signature. . . .

We come now to the question of the circulation of books, and this involves several smaller questions. Regarding the number of books, it is generally conceded, I believe, that one book of fiction on a card is quite sufficient, and, indeed, in most small libraries the demand for fiction, and especially current fiction, is such that the library would be crippled if it granted more than one book of fiction on a card. I think experience has proved to us all the wisdom of the suggestion made to libraries some years ago, of allowing one book of non-fiction to be taken with the fiction. Perhaps we are ready now to go one step further, as some have already done. Miss Hopkins states in *PUBLIC LIBRARIES* for April of this year, that at Madison, Wis., they have removed all restrictions from the circulation of non fiction books. Lansing, Mich., has the following rule: Each borrower is entitled to one book of fiction and as many of non-fiction as he desires, subject to the discretion of the librarian. Wilmington, Del., allows any number of non-fiction works up to 100. The provision "subject to the discretion of the librarian" would be a safeguard against one person having a monopoly of what others might need, especially when several people are studying the same subject. . . . The libraries just mentioned which have removed the restriction on the number of non-fiction books have also removed the time limit, in one case with this proviso, that they be renewed every two weeks, and in another, always subject to call after four weeks.

O. K. Benecke, who was not able to be present, sent "a few thoughts hastily penned upon the subject." "The governing motive in establishing libraries is philanthropy. . . . The librarian should make himself acquainted with the conditions of the patrons, and grant the greatest amount of latitude in deserving cases, while with the habitual lazy and negligent reader, a rigid enforcement of the rules would be appropriate."

Miss Roberts, librarian of Normal school, Warrensburg, Mo., led the discussion. Miss Roberts said when patrons wanted several books on a special line she decided by their carrying capacity how many books they might take from the library. Miss Roberts thought the fine of 10 cents imposed for the loss of a membership card was a good rule as it made the patrons more careful of their library cards.

The paper as presented by Miss Smith, as well as the subject in hand, elicited wide discussion. Mr Gerould, librarian of University of Missouri library, said he objected to library rules and when found necessary to have them, they should be elastic. Mr Gifford, librarian of Mercantile library, St Louis, said he did not approve of requiring guarantors for applicants for library membership cards. He thought it would be better to lose a number of books than to put such restriction on patrons. Mr Crunden, librarian St Louis public library, insisted that guarantors are a necessity in a large city library, but that the rule should be flexible, should not be enforced in the case of well-known citizens. Mr Wright, librarian of the St Joseph public library, declared that the question of the guarantor system caused more discussion and more trouble than any other question of library administration. Mr Wright further said that some people were more appreciative of library privileges when they felt responsible to two people, to the guarantor and to the librarian. State superintendent Carrington stated that where there were more rules governing the pupils the children were more widely separated from their teacher and he supposed the same con-

dition would hold in a library. The hours of Sunday opening was introduced for discussion by Mr Wright of St Joseph public library. Mr Wright said he had experienced a Sunday morning opening, but the few regular habits were the only ones who came in. He thought, too, that the ministers of the city objected on the ground that it might interfere with the churchgoer. The members of the association all agreed that Sunday afternoon from two to five, or two to nine, were the best Sunday hours. That these hours were best suited for the class of patrons who were too tired on Saturday evening, or did not want to "fix up" to go to the library.

The subject of Modern children's catalog by Mrs M. B. Clark, organizer, from Webster Grove, Mo., created much interest. Mrs Clark developed the idea that The general principles governing the preparation of the children's catalog are the same as those governing the making of the general catalog, so that the children may naturally go from the use of the one to the other. Terms should be simplified but methods remain unchanged. The special points to be considered in children's catalogs are familiar and easily understood subject headings; title entries, many and clear; brief imprint. First, subject headings. Children will be looking for books about birds and bees, cats and dogs, about trees and plants and flowers—nature study as it appeals to eye and ear; about history under familiar names, about heroes and soldiers; sea stories, stories of hunting and camping; stories about life as they live it in the real world, and that as real to the child mind, the world of imagination.

The principal topic of the discussion was, how to get children to use their card catalog. Remarks were made by Miss Smith, Mr Wright, Miss Wales, Supt. Carrington and Miss Bishop. It was concluded that if the pupils found material for composition work cataloged, they would readily use their card catalog. A subject catalog with many

analyticals was decided upon as being the best "drawing card."

Olivia A. Parrish, librarian of State normal school, Kirksville, in her paper on Library extension, considered the state library commission as a necessary adjunct to library extension. All phases of library extension were taken up at length. Miss Parrish stated the fact that "our large cities have done much, but the pressing need of today is the work of the small town and the rural district. They can only be reached by the establishment of a library commission and state aid."

The somewhat unique question How to make libraries of interest to men, not only to women and children, was satisfactorily answered by Mr Crunden, librarian of St Louis public library, especially in the notation given of the number of times books on various scientific subjects had been used in the St Louis public library. The mechanic is interested in his special line, as well as the professional man, and if he finds the books he wishes to consult, he patronizes the library. Discussion was led by Mr Wright and Mrs Carrie Westlake Whitney.

Mr Gerould explained the various methods used in ordering Library of congress cards, also said he had found the Library of congress card cheaper, as the result of a year's experience, finding the cost not more than 12 cents a card to complete the work and have cards placed in the catalog trays.

A history of the library commission bill was outlined and the causes noted for its defeat, by Mr Wright of St Joseph public library.

Miss Thompson, librarian of the Jefferson City public library, said defeat was due to the senatorial fight and suggested that if three men who understood legislation be placed on the committee to again introduce the library commission bill they might succeed.

Miss Wales, librarian of the Carthage public library, gave a tabulated talk on her experience in organizing several libraries, said in part that the stages of library development were dependent on systematic work. Thought a small

training class should be organized some time before the opening of a library so as to become familiar with the routine work. In her experience Mrs Bessie Lee, librarian of the Moberly public library, considered that her work with the children at the beginning gave her best results.

Mrs George O. Carpenter, superintendent of traveling libraries, St Louis, read from the last report of the good work done by the traveling libraries. In a few words she made her hearers appreciate how much good traveling libraries do in a farming community or in a small town. A box was exhibited on the platform showing the nature of books and method of sending. Mrs Carpenter gave a few amusing experiences relative to fighting the prejudice existing against traveling libraries.

A scholarly paper by Miss Wagner, chief of the catalog and order department, St Louis public library, on Selection and buying of books for the small libraries, followed. Miss Wagner's paper was full of suggestions and left little to discuss.

The meeting just closed at Jefferson City has given an impetus toward solving two important problems which the association has had in hand for the past two years—the State library commission bill, and a handbook of the Missouri library association.

The officers for the ensuing year were elected: Sula Wagner, St Louis, president; F. A. Sampson, Columbia, first vice-president; W. H. Kerr, Fulton, second vice-president; Frances A. Bishop, Kansas City, secretary and treasurer. With resolutions expressing thanks to our entertainers in Jefferson City, one of the most successful meetings of the Missouri library association adjourned, Oct. 26, 1905.

FRANCES A. BISHOP, Sec.

New Jersey—The annual meeting of the New Jersey library association was held at Asbury Park Wednesday, October 18. There were two meetings, one in the afternoon at the Free library, the other in the evening at Marlborough

House, the headquarters hotel. About 60 of the 130 members were present. Many stayed until Thursday morning, embracing this opportunity of becoming better acquainted with one another.

The meeting opened with the president, Mr Dana, in the chair. In his opening remarks Mr Dana called attention to the following indications of growth in library interest in the state during the past year. The most notable has been that of the appointment of Sarah B. Askew as library organizer by the Public library commission. Into her hands has been given also the charge of the traveling libraries. Three unusual meetings have been held, meetings called and arranged by assistants for assistants. The first of these was at Newark in March, the second at Englewood in June, the third at Madison in October. The New Jersey library class met last winter at the Newark library with Miss Rathbone of Pratt institute as instructor, and is to be continued this year under Miss Hitchler of the Brooklyn public library.

Then, too, the association has published three pamphlets—List of members of the New Jersey library association, constitution and by-laws; A talk to librarians by Wendell Phillips Garrison, editor of the *Nation*, being the address delivered by him at the annual meeting of the association last October; List of aids in book selection, compiled by Miss Winsor. This last was reprinted by the A. L. A. and distributed among the smaller libraries all over the United States.

One other thing Mr Dana spoke of was the offer made by the Newark *Evening news* to print every Tuesday a column on matters concerning New Jersey libraries. Much of the material might be furnished by the association. Probably papers in other towns would be glad to do likewise.

After the business was disposed of, Miss Russell gave an excellent paper setting forth the aims of the summer library school. She said that the summer school is not a short cut, that it aims to give the students a working

basis in library economy and shows them how to use their tools more effectively and intelligently. It gives the librarian of a small library an opportunity of hearing prominent members of the profession. She has a chance to collect ideas and rub up against others in the same problems. The very fact of her being away from her own town for a time is of value and she returns refreshed, a librarian rather than a person in charge of a library.

Miss Hilson could testify that the summer school most certainly was worth while as she had taken the course at Chautauqua last summer and received benefits both technical and inspirational.

Miss Askew then gave her report on the proposed New Jersey summer library school which will be held next summer.

The talk following these papers was continued over the teacups in the reading-room of the library.

In the evening all assembled in the music room of the hotel. Miss Adams gave a talk on

Coöperation with state charity work

She urged that more be done in this line by librarians, that traveling libraries be sent to the reformatories, almshouses, etc., and that discarded books be given to them. All libraries should be supplied with literature on the subject and all should subscribe to the organ of the society, the *New Jersey review of charities and correction*. It was voted to send delegates to the winter meeting of the New Jersey conference of charities and corrections to be held in Newark.

Mr Collins of the Princeton university library, who has been abroad the past year, spoke entertainingly of his adventures in European libraries. He visited several in Edinburgh in quest of material on John Witherspoon, whose life he is writing, as well as the British museum bibliothèque nationale and libraries in Southern France, Sicily and Italy.

Picture collections were then discussed. Miss Mulligan described what

the Perth Amboy library has begun to do on a small scale. Thus far everything offered she had accepted, sorting and classifying according to subject and placing in manila envelopes. One of the trustees had taken great interest in the work and had done most of the collecting and cutting up of the magazines. Miss Mulligan advocated the plan of a library having collections of pictures on special subjects, for instance an industry peculiar to the town, which should be advertised, borrowed by other libraries when needed, and which might be increased by pictures sent from other libraries.

The collection of more than 50,000 pictures in the Newark library was described in detail by Miss Prevost of the Elizabeth library. This collection consists almost entirely of pictures from periodicals which are not bound and would otherwise be thrown away. The pictures are sorted according to subject and placed in manila folders so marked. The folders are arranged alphabetically in boxes which have one side hinged to permit of easy access. The pictures are lent unmounted unless wanted for a special exhibition. Then they are mounted on pulp board. One collection of this sort, Queen Elizabeth, has been lent eight times. Coöperation in this work among libraries would certainly increase its usefulness.

Miss Moore of Pratt institute gave an interesting talk on the bulletins and scrapbooks used in the children's room of the Pratt institute library, illustrating with material she had brought with her.

Mr Kimball, president of the commission and trustee of the Passaic library, Miss Weller of Paterson and others told interesting things about the A. L. A. conference at Portland. The meeting adjourned at about 11:30 p. m. It was the longest in the history of the association, yet all were loath to separate.

ISABEL MCD. HOWELL, Sec.

The present is full of the past and big with the future.—*Leitnis*.

Library Reading Circle

There is a large body of persons interested in an unknown way in library work, for whom there is no definite source of help, and for whom nothing has ever been presented. This and the many requests for study outlines preliminary to entering regular library schools or summer schools, and the desire of summer school students for further work and reading on the historical side of library work, have led to the preparation of a simple outline for 10 months' work. It is expected that about an hour a day for one month will be devoted to the topic. References to books and periodicals and suggestions for study will be given each month.

During January students should secure the necessary text-books and learn the resources of the local library in library literature, including reports of American libraries, bound magazines, and encyclopedias. It is recommended also, that time be given for close observation of the work of the local library, study of its reports, careful reading of the circulars and announcements of the leading library schools. No one should enter upon this simple course without some comprehension of the meaning of library training.

Write to the following schools for circulars: New York state library school, Albany, N. Y.; Illinois state library school, Champaign, Ill.; Pratt institute library school, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Drexel institute library school, Philadelphia; Simmons college library school, Boston; Western Reserve university library school, Cleveland, Ohio; Carnegie library Training school for children's librarians, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Several states have library summer schools, but no good summer school accepts as a student one not in a position or under appointment to one, unless unusual educational qualifications seem to make an exception to this rule desirable. The aims of the summer school may be learned by reading circulars issued by the State library commissions of Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana, and Minnesota, and

by the New York state library school.

Also send to the secretary of the American library association, J. I. Wyer, Lincoln, Neb., for the handbook of the association, which contains information about the National association, state associations and commissions, and library schools.

No attempt will be made in the course to direct study of technical library work, or to prepare for library positions. It should be distinctly understood that the study is for general information, and that references will be given only to books which are inexpensive and easily obtainable. The references to periodical literature and special cyclopedias will be added for the benefit of students who have access to public libraries.

It is recommended that all intending to follow the course register with the editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, sending also a statement in regard to the library literature accessible, library experience and training. Wisconsin librarians may borrow the books from the Wisconsin library commission. Similar arrangements will probably be made by some other states if a sufficient number of librarians register from them.

Librarians who have made a success of practical work in libraries have agreed to help in this effort, and whatever is given can be relied on as a result of thought based on experience.

There are no fees for the course, and those interested in preparing it are most anxious to give all possible help to young librarians and to would-be librarians who are sufficiently alert and progressive to give time to the study.

If two or three people in the same library or town can be brought together for a little library study or reading circle, the "magic of together" will greatly augment the interest.

Suggestions and criticisms will be gladly received and if there seems to be a desire for it a quiz will be given at the end to test the progress made to the satisfaction of the readers.

A list of books and directions for doing the reading will be given in the January PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

News from the Field

East

The Dover (N. H.) public library was robbed recently of \$115 from a drawer in the librarian's desk.

Angeline Scott, librarian of the South Norwalk (Conn.) public library for a number of years, and a well-known member of the Connecticut library association, resigned her position recently and was married to Alfred J. Donley of South Norwalk.

Three courses of lectures, 23 in all, will be given at the Boston public library, this season. One course is presented by the library, one by the Society of printers, and one by the Boston architectural club. There will be given also in the fine arts room of the library a series of exhibitions more or less paralleling the lecture course.

The college library at Harvard has recently received from the Japanese government several hundred sheets of maps of the official survey of Japan.

The library has also received the complete set of stenographic records of the German reichstag from 1867 to the present time, and of the Prussian landtag. The reports consist of 255v. and are the only complete set in this country.

Harvard is slowly getting together the collection of about 10,000v. promised by Prof. A. C. Coolidge in commemoration of the visit of Prince Henry of Prussia in March, 1902. Mr Lichtenstein, curator of the collection, is at present in Europe in search of volumes to complete the collection.

The following statement by Pres. L. Clark Seelye of Smith college and Arthur Watson of the board of trustees of the Forbes library at Northampton is self-explanatory of an agreement which has now been reached between the two institutions. It will be remembered that the trustees of the library made a charge of \$2500 upon the college, and that the trustees of the college refused to pay more than \$2000:

A gentleman, whose name is withheld from the public, and who is not connected with either

the Forbes library or Smith college, has volunteered, unsolicited, to contribute \$500 annually to the trustees of the Forbes library for three years, on the condition that the trustees of Smith college annually, for the same period, will repeat their offer to contribute \$2000, and that the students of the college, while these contributions are made, shall have the same free use of the library, and shall be accorded the same privileges as in previous years. The undersigned certify that this generous offer has been accepted, and that the authorized agents of both institutions have agreed to fulfill its conditions.

L. CLARK SEELYE.
ARTHUR WATSON.

Central Atlantic

Enoch Pratt free library, Baltimore, has adopted the plan of reserving books 24 hours for patrons who request it.

Book notes in the November number of the bulletin of the Wilmington (Del.) institute free library are very bright, interesting and might be helpful commentaries on some current books.

Annette L. Smiley, for some time in the Omaha (Neb.) public library and later in library work in New York, was married November 7 in New York city to Allan W. Fisher of St Petersburg, Fla.

A number of additions have been made to the staff of Pratt institute library. Louisa M. Mears, who was absent for a year and a half on account of illness, has returned to her work. E. M. Fish, '04, and M. M. Douglas, '05, have taken up work on the library staff. Edwin M. Jenks, New York '03, for some time in Brooklyn public library, will take charge of the applied science reference room January 1.

The Library of congress has just held an exhibit of tiny books. None of the 192v. displayed were more than two inches in length or breadth. They came from all countries and are printed in many languages. Some date back to early eighteenth century but most of them are modern. The foreign books are more carefully made than those made in this country. Some show rare and beautiful bindings.

With the new year Volney Streamer enters upon the librarianship of the

Players' club, New York. Its shelves contain one of the best collections of dramatic literature in America. For the past 10 years Mr Streamer has been literary adviser to Brentano's. His anthologies, *Voices of doubt and trust*, and *In friendship's name*, are widely popular. Before removing to New York Mr Streamer was for a long time in the service of McClurg's, Chicago.

The annual report of the director of the New York public library states that 159,659 desk applicants consulted 615,454v.; 657,546v. and 256,548 pamphlets in the reference department, which with 476,597v. in the circulating department, gave 1,390,691 pieces in the library available for readers; circulation for home use was 3,691,500v.; branches have increased from 22 to 31; periodicals received, 5458; nearly 20 exhibits of various kinds were made at Lenox, Astor, and the various branches during the year. The staff consists of 302 persons. Coöperation is carried on with 103 schools; 2014 books and 572 pieces of music were circulated among the blind. A card catalog in New York point is being prepared for them. The net loss of books amounted to 6433. Monthly meetings of the staff are held.

The East Liberty branch of the Carnegie library of Pittsburg was opened on October 10. There is now a total of about 150 agencies in the city of Pittsburg for the distribution of library books, including the central and branch libraries, deposit stations, homelibraries, reading clubs, and schools.

This branch is situated in a very populous district and is much larger than the five older branches, though built on the same general plan with amplifications and modifications. As in the other branches, all books are on shelves accessible to the public.

On the main floor are the semicircular stack room with radiating book stacks, a large reading and reference room for adults, an office for the branch librarian, a children's room with the children's books shelved around the walls, and a small children's reference

room. The reading-room contains in addition to the tables three circular settees with cushioned seats and an electric light standard in the center. Round tables are used in this room as well as in the children's room and the floors are of rubber tile. The basement contains an auditorium seating 364, and three classrooms, where reading circles or story hours may be held. On the second floor is a room for club meetings, a staff room and the janitor's living apartments.

The book collection now numbers about 12,000v. and the circulation for the first three weeks was 10,011.

Central

Helen Crane, Illinois '05, has been elected librarian at Moline, Ill.

Ann Shaw Pinkham, Illinois '05, has been elected librarian of the Stephenson library at Marinette, Wis.

Alice D. McKee, New York '05, has been appointed cataloger at the library of the University of Michigan.

The Public library of St Louis has adopted the decimal classification and has begun the work of placing its large collection of books under its divisions.

Paul Blackwelder has been appointed assistant librarian of the St Louis public library. Mr Blackwelder has been principal of the Washington school in St Louis.

Maud Pugsley has been at work for the past six or seven months reorganizing the Public library at Traverse City, Mich. Her work will be finished February 1.

The annual report of the Wisconsin historical society shows an increase of 12,634 titles, making the present accumulation about 272,664 titles. The need for more room in the building is pressed.

The Wm. Jewell college at Liberty, Mo., has purchased the library of the noted Baptist preacher, the late Charles H. Spurgeon of London. The collection contains 7000v. and costs \$1500 exclusive of the duty.

Stella V. Seybold, librarian at Daven-

port, Iowa, has resigned her position and will retire from library work. The highest commendation of her work and personality is expressed by the library board, by the newspapers and by the public generally.

The library club of Chicago last year initiated a movement for more coöperation between the various popular educational institutions of Chicago and has progressed until Mayor Dunne has been induced to appoint a committee of seven to collect information concerning what is being done in other places with a view to beginning work along similar lines in Chicago.

South

The public library at Jacksonville, Fla., under the direction of George B. Utley is growing into a helpful institution of that place. The per cent of cardholders is quite good.

December 8 has been designated as library day in West Virginia. On that day the schools of the state and others interested make a concerted effort for the libraries of the state.

The children's room of the Louisville public library was opened November 1, with special exercises. Addresses were made by various persons, there was music and several stories were told the children who were present in great numbers. Adeline Zachert, for six years a primary teacher in Louisville, will have charge of the work.

West

The Butte (Mont.) public library has opened up new rooms in rented quarters, and are busy serving the public again.

Anna B. Albert, assistant in library of Colorado agricultural college, has been elected librarian of Public library, La Junta, Colo. She began her new work Nov. 1, 1905. The vacancy in the college library has not been filled.

Pacific Coast

Nina T. Waddell, Armour '97, has been elected librarian of the La Jolla (Cal.) public library, retaining the office of trustee and secretary.

Alice Bixby, formerly in the library of the Agricultural department at Washington, has been appointed cataloger in Berkeley (Cal.) public library.

The University of California has recently bought the H. H. Bancroft library for \$250,000. A gift of \$100,000 from H. H. Bancroft was used in the purchase.

Canada

The public library building at St Thomas, Ont., has the following unique heating system.

The city of St Thomas has just installed a system of heating for the public library and the city hall by utilizing the exhaust steam from the street railway engines and the electric light engines at the power house, which is now a waste product. The system is as follows: The exhaust steam is carried through a heater which is filled with small, corrugated copper tubes, these tubes being filled with water. In passing through this heater the water is heated to a temperature the same as the steam. Then by means of a force pump it is forced through a main pipe four inches in diameter, to the buildings, where it is attached to the mains and the radiators in the buildings.

There is also a return pipe, which carries the water back after passing through the radiators, when it is again heated to any desired extent, the heating being regulated either by the speed of the pump or by control valves placed on the mains as they enter each building. The 4-inch mains and the return pipe which carry heat to the buildings are laid underground. They are covered with asbestos wool to prevent the heat escaping, and then wrapped with hemp packing and inclosed in a 12-inch vitrified tile with cement joints. The saving of this system will be practically the whole cost of heating the buildings with coal. There will also be the saving of the labor attending the firing of the furnaces.—*Washington Star.*

Foreign

The removal of the Heidelberg university library, containing more than 700,000v, into a new and handsome sandstone library building has just been completed. The work of removal employed 15 men 32 days. Each separate book was freed from dust by a cleaner operated by an electric motor, of the form used in house and carpet cleaning, the back and edges of each book being subjected to the powerful suction of the cleaner with highly satisfactory results. The library requires about 21 miles of shelf room.

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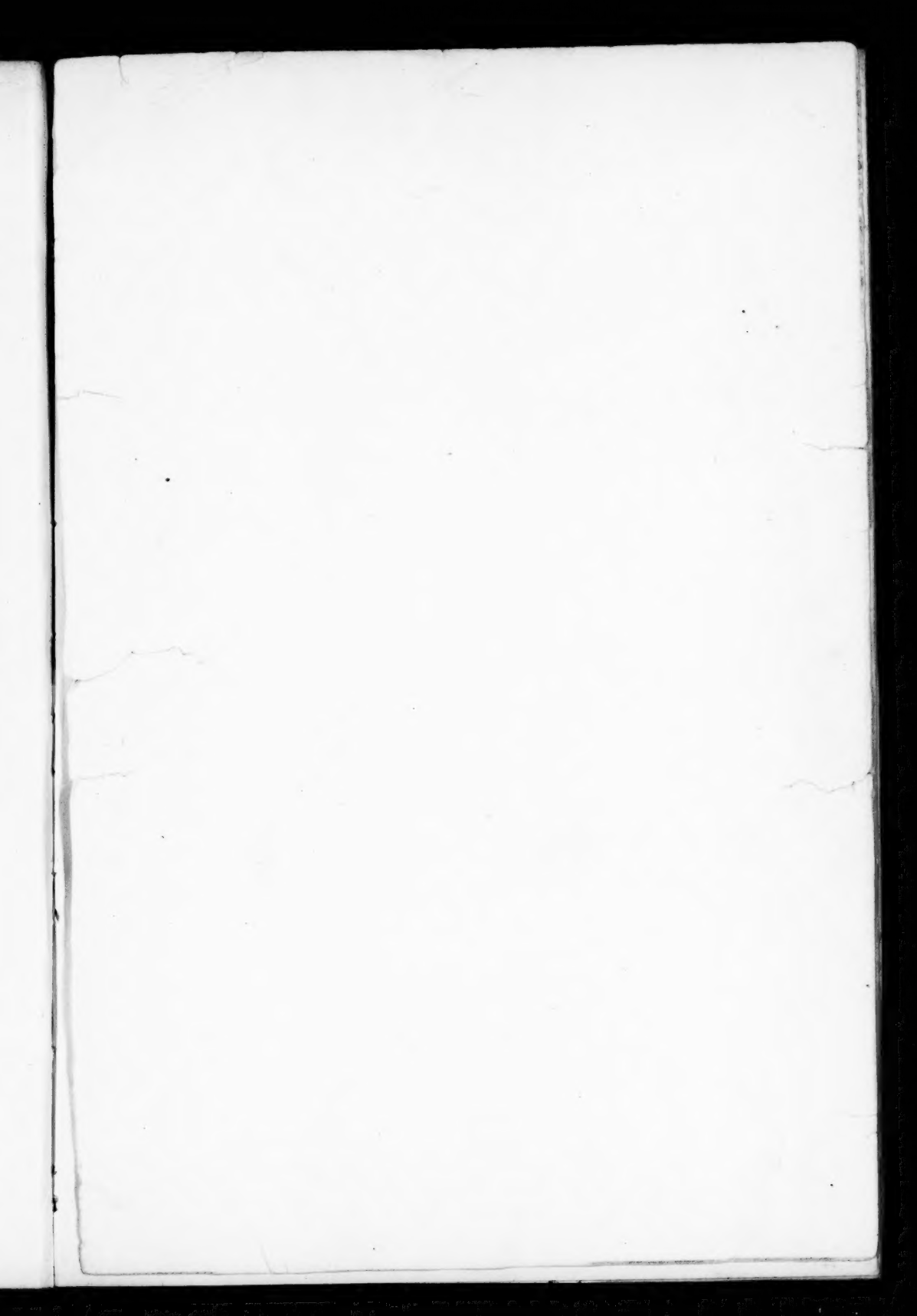
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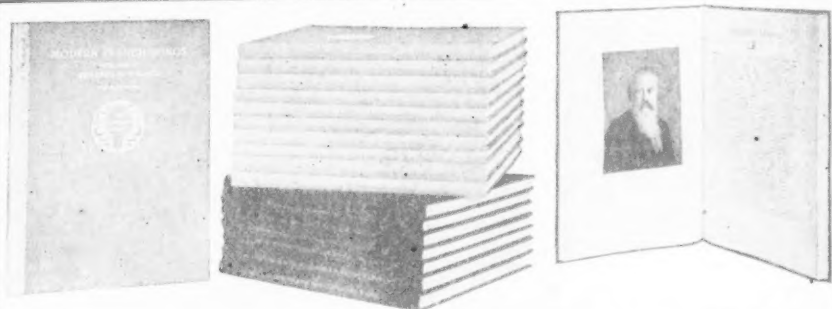
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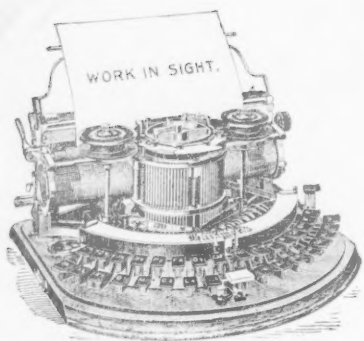
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